

DAY, JANUARY 24, 1995  
COLUMBIA  
Deng in good health — Senior Chinese official  
KUALA LUMPUR — Chinese patriarch Niooping is in good health but is prone to the flu, an official told reporters today.  
"Deng is in good health but has some men's illnesses," said Dao Han, who is director of the Shanghai Economic Relations Across the Straits (ARATS) office in China.  
Mr. Wang said Mr. Niooping is a former minister for a former Malaysia and Chinese government, and he is speaking at the forum.  
The health of Chinese leader Mr. Deng is 90 years old, but he is still active in Hong Kong.  
Southeast Asia Minister Mohd. Yusoff said on Monday that he was not worried that Mr. Niooping's death would affect the economic police force.  
"We are not worried that it is not going to be a natural consequence," he said.  
Michael Jackson accused of sexual abuse — London (AP) — The singer Michael Jackson, 30, is accused of sexual abuse of a 13-year-old boy.  
The singer's lawyer said Jackson is innocent and has been framed.  
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U.S. fortifies vulnerable Russian nuclear facility  
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Honest Kiwi returns wallet with \$150  
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**Missing American airman and son found alive**  
ANKARA (AP) — A U.S. Air Force pilot and his 10-year-old son who disappeared while skiing were found alive Tuesday, surviving nine days in freezing wilderness by hibernating in a cave and eating snow.  
Lieutenant Colonel Michael Ronald Couillard, 37, and his youngest son, Matthew, were last seen Jan. 15 on a ski lift at the northern Turkish resort of Kartalkaya, 110 kilometres from Ankara, where the officer is assigned.  
Mustafa Karstoglu, chief physician at Bofa state hospital where the pair were first taken, said both father and son were conscious but their feet were swollen from frostbite. "The boy's condition appears more serious with his right leg being swollen from the knee down," he added.  
Guner Ozmen, acting chief of national security, said Col. Couillard and his son spent eight days in a cave after losing their way in a blizzard. The cave was some five kilometres from the ski resort. Then Col. Couillard went in search of help, walking about a kilometre until he found an unheated cottage in a state-forestry camp in Aladag Valley. After a day in the cottage, forest workers found the pilot, who then led rescuers to his son, Dr. Ozmen added.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

**Netanyahu wants army to attack militants**  
TEL AVIV (AP) — The leader of Israel's right-wing opposition on Tuesday called for a free hand for the army so it could strike at militants in their own bases.  
Benjamin Netanyahu, head of the Likud Party, told parliament: "We must give back the Israeli army its freedom of manoeuvre, and announce that there will not be any new safe havens in Judea and Samaria (West Bank) like in Gaza." "Then we must attack terrorists inside their own bases." The opposition leader added that "we must give Palestinians autonomy, but in no case a state." All of Israel's right-wing parties called for a suspension of autonomy talks with the Palestinians after militants killed 19 people in a double suicide bombing near the Israeli coastal resort of Netanya on Sunday.  
Mr. Netanyahu was speaking during a debate on a vote of censure of the government, following its partial freezing of Jewish settlement building around Jerusalem. The motion, brought by the right-wing, was rejected by 61 votes to 53, with six abstentions. The ultra-orthodox Jewish party Shas, which normally supports the ruling coalition, voted against the government.

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## King honours S. Korean envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday conferred on North Korea's Ambassador to Jordan Gung Sok Ung the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order on the occasion of the ambassador's end of duty in Jordan.  
The medal was presented to the outgoing ambassador by Nayef Al Hadid, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general, at a lunch given in his honour.

## Jerusalem settlers defy government

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The heads of settlements around Jerusalem threw down the gauntlet to the government on Tuesday setting up a forum to boost construction. The move was announced as a direct challenge to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who on Sunday set up a special ministerial committee to control new building in "greater Jerusalem".  
Local authority chiefs from Jerusalem and the settlements of Maale Adumim, Givat Zee, Gush Etzion, Efrat and Betar met Tuesday in the Holy City and announced "cooperative efforts aimed at fighting to maintain the momentum in construction and development of the entire area."

## Prince Sultan hails talks with Yemenis

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has hailed talks with Yemeni officials aimed at settling a border dispute, saying they are being conducted in a "fraternal" spirit.  
Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, quoted by the official news agency SPA, told the Saudi cabinet Tuesday that the talks "are taking place in a fraternal spirit with the aim of reaching a joint approach to all the outstanding problems between the two countries." The Yemeni delegation led by Parliamentary Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar has been in Riyadh since Sunday.  
Sheikh Al Ahmar told AFP two countries had agreed to set up a joint committee to outline an accord to settle the 60-year-old dispute and discuss ways to develop Saudi-Yemeni ties.

## 7 sentenced to death in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — An Algerian court on Tuesday handed down death sentences against seven people, six of them still on the run, for the October 1993 abduction of three French consular officials. The special court also handed down jail terms against other defendants, including one life term, another of 20 years, two of eight years, one of three and another of six months. Five people were acquitted. The only defendant sentenced to death to be in court was Mohammed Ali Bellouk, a Moroccan accused of having driven the vehicle used in the kidnapping. His mother, Fatma-Zohra, accused of having kept watch over Michele Thievenot, one of the consular official kidnapped, was handed a six-month prison sentence.

## Iraq to return Kuwaiti property

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraq will resume next month returning Kuwaiti possessions taken during its seven-month occupation of the emirate, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported Tuesday.  
It quoted Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen, a Foreign Ministry under-secretary, as saying a senior United Nations official informed him of Iraq's decision Monday.

# Arafat visits Jordan today; accords ready for signing

Understanding on Jerusalem, mutual needs clear the air, Agreements seen to herald well-founded relationship

By Ghadeer Taher  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrives here today amid high hopes that his talks with His Majesty King Hussein will put an end to a long period of tension and suspicion that characterised Jordan-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) relations amid the intricacies of Middle East peace-making.  
A joint Jordanian-Palestinian ministerial team laid the groundwork for the visit of Mr. Arafat, who is expected to sign a much-delayed, wide-ranging memorandum of understanding and cooperation, with Jordan.  
Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told journalists on the eve of Mr. Arafat's visit that the agreement represents "a general framework organising bilateral relations in addition to protocols to be put in place by experts."

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Special to the Jordan Times

## 'No Palestinian passport for Jordanians'

JORDAN said Tuesday it would not allow Jordanians to carry Palestinian passports unless the Arab League removes a ban on dual Arab nationality.  
A Jordanian official involved in the Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations said the subject was not on the agenda of the talks but that the issue was brought up informally by ministers of the Palestinian National Authority on the sidelines of the negotiations.  
"The Jordanian position is to abide by the resolutions of the Arab League which do not permit dual Arab nationalities," said the official. "But if there is any other proposal, it should be submitted through the Arab League."

is left open for future options on forms of bilateral relations.

The accords, especially the economic part, draws the line between two separate entities and if implemented and developed could lay the ground for a future form of unity — as the agreements involve a high level of integration in all fields.  
As it is, the theme of the accords, at least the political preamble, is consistent with the repeatedly declared Jordanian position not to pre-define a future form of bilateral relations.  
His Majesty King Hussein has said on different occasions that Jordan refused to commit itself to a federation or confederation before the Palestinians are free from Israeli occupation and can have a say about their future.  
According to Jordanian officials, it is unrealistic and impossible to predetermine the form of the future relationship.

# Israel plans 'security' border after mass arrest

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin unveiled plans Tuesday to build a border to separate Israelis and Palestinians amid a crackdown on hardline Palestinians who killed 19 in a suicide bombing.  
A committee will be appointed by the cabinet on Sunday to draw up a "separation plan" between Israel and the West Bank.  
Last Sunday's bombing by Islamic Jihad was the fourth suicide attack in Israel in the last 10 months and led Mr. Rabin to warn that "total separation" was the only way to halt the violence.  
Mr. Rabin said he now wanted "to begin to give a concrete reality to the idea of separation."  
The body would be given up to two months to draw up what he called a "security border" for the five-year interim period of Palestinian autonomy.  
It would not necessarily be the same as any political border which might be agreed in negotiations with the Palestinians on a final agreement that are set to start in May 1996.  
But he enraged right-wingers who accused the government of paving the way for an independent Palestine.  
"Rabin is preparing for the creation of a Palestinian state," said Moshe Katz, head of the Likud parliamentary party.  
The proposed fence would reportedly take about one year to build and cost \$230 million. Mr. Rabin's cabinet first discussed the plan in an emergency session hours after the bombing.  
Mr. Rabin told army radio that he expected that the plan "to gradually carry out the separation" would take about two months to formulate.  
Economic issues such as Palestinian employment would be taken into account but "the security issue is the dominant one," Mr. Rabin said.  
Asked if the plan was not really establishing a de facto border, Mr. Rabin answered that "there can be security borders during the interim stage that will not be permanent borders when we achieve peace."  
Uri Dromi, head of the government press office, said the plan would create a physical barrier to keep most Palestinians out of Israel.  
Foreign Minister Shimon Peres supported the proposal as a way to stop the bombings. "The idea of erecting a security barrier definitely appeals to me," he said. "I think we need physical separation so the terrorists won't come in."  
As part of Israel's counter strike against militants, troops raided homes and hideouts late Monday and Tuesday and arrested more than 60 activists in the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups, Palestinian reporters and Israel Radio said.  
"We are waging an all-out war against Hamas," said Major General Ilan Biran, top military commander for the occupied territories.

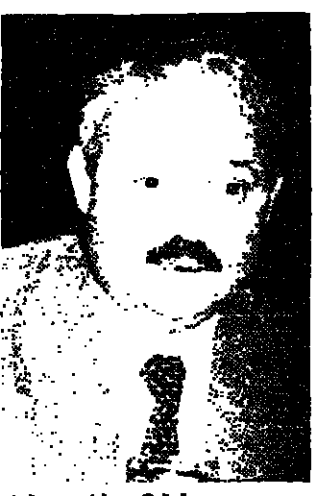
## U.S. freezes assets of 12 Middle East groups

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton on Tuesday froze the U.S. assets of 12 organisations and 18 people suspected of trying to destroy the Middle East peace process.  
The groups targeted include Islamic Jihad, the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, Hizbollah, the Palestine Liberation Front, and Kach, an extremist Jewish group, said White House spokesman Michael McCurry in releasing a partial list.  
Mr. Clinton issued the executive order late Monday, a day after one of the deadliest bomb attacks in Israel. Islamic Jihad, which opposes the Arab-Israeli peace process, claimed responsibility for the attack.  
The presidential directive, which took effect at midnight (0500 GMT) Tuesday, also stops U.S. financial transactions and aims at restricting the ability of suspected groups to obtain donations from U.S. sources, he said.  
Mr. McCurry said that Mr. Clinton was to unveil in his state of the union address late Tuesday "a comprehensive anti-terrorism package" which he will soon introduce in Congress.  
Mr. Clinton had joined other world leaders in condemning Sunday's bombing near Netanya, which killed 19 people, including 18 Jewish soldiers.  
Sunday he called the perpetrators "enemies of peace" and expressed the White House's fear that continued violence in the Middle East will undermine efforts to achieve peace between Israel and the Arabs.  
Mr. McCurry said of the executive order's list: "We have reason to believe they are specifically involved in an effort to disrupt and destroy the peace process" by supporting or participating in "terrorist activities."  
He characterised the organisations and people on the list, all foreigners, as "the usual suspects."  
The directive, issued under the International Economic Powers ACT, will be published in the Federal Register later Tuesday.  
The Treasury Department was notifying banks of accounts believed to be connected to the suspects, he said.

# Jordan wants Israel to sign NPT: options depend on Arabs

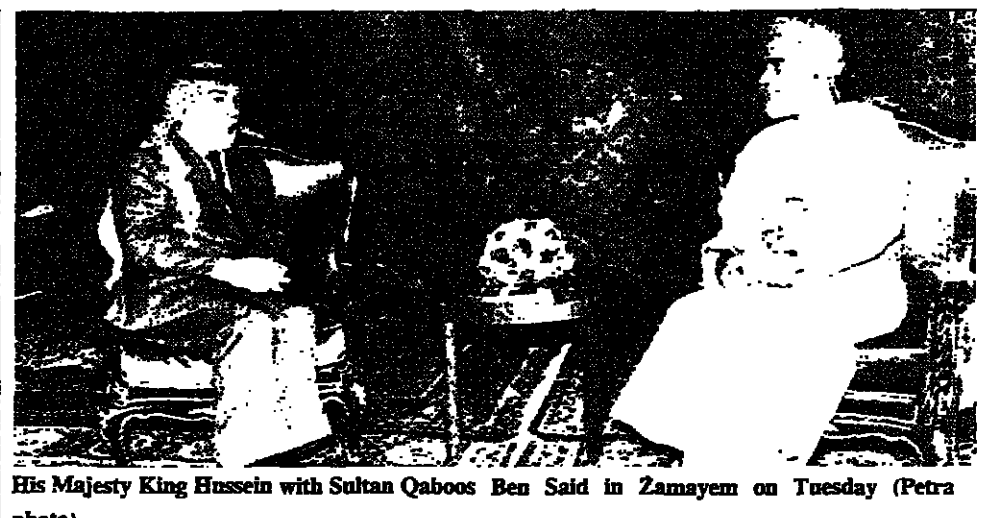
By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan supports the drive to have Israel sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) but has not yet decided whether it will withdraw from the accord if Israel refuses to join it, a senior Jordanian official said Tuesday.  
The Kingdom's ambassador to the United Nations, Adnan Abu Odeh, told the Jordan Times the Kingdom's position would be decided after the Arab League Foreign Ministers' Council takes a decision on the treaty in March.  
He said Jordan's position will "materialise" within the positions of the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement, which are similar in all but the Arabs' push to have Israel sign the treaty.  
Mr. Abu Odeh said the Arab League has entrusted a technical committee with studying the treaty and making recommendations to the Foreign Ministers' Council.  
The ambassador said Jordan believes Israel's accession to the NPT will support the Arab-Israeli peace process and will eventually lead to a goal supported by Israel which is creating a nuclear-arms-free zone in the Middle East.  
He noted that the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israeli Peace treaty commits the two sides to work jointly towards the creation of a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction.  
Article 7 of the treaty says the two sides will work towards "the creation of a Middle East free from weapons



Adnan Abu Odeh

of mass destruction, both conventional and non-conventional, in the context of a comprehensive, lasting and stable peace, characterised by the renunciation of the use of force, reconciliation and good will."  
Mr. Abu Odeh said the Kingdom, which signed the NPT in 1968 and sent the ratification documents to the U.N. in 1970, has been consistent in demanding that the Jewish state sign it as demonstrated by its voting record in the U.N.  
Israel, which, Western experts believe, has about 200 nuclear warheads, has consistently refused to sign the NPT and has never acknowledged possessing nuclear weapons.  
Egypt, a key player in the Arab League, has said it would not sign the NPT unless the Jewish state joins it or commits itself to doing so in the future. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Egypt will not budge on these demands.  
The NPT is to be renewed in a meeting of the 169 signatories in New York in April.



# King returns from Oman after reaffirming pledge for peace

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Tuesday after talks with Sultan Qaboos Ben Said of Oman. During the talks Jordan and Oman pledged to support the Middle East peace process until a comprehensive settlement is reached.  
King Hussein met with Sultan Qaboos in Zamayem in the presence of senior Jordanian and Omani officials.  
King Hussein briefed Sultan Qaboos on Jordan's priorities after it signed the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel and stressed that the Kingdom would focus on building a better future for its coming generations, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.  
The King emphasised that Jordan would continue to exert efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region in accordance with the principles of the Madrid conference.

which launched the Middle East peace process in October 1991, it said.  
Jordan, the King underlined, will also do its utmost at various levels to achieve better conditions for the peoples of the region which have over decades suffered because of conflicts and the absence of security and stability.  
The two leaders discussed Jordanian-Omani relations and stressed the importance of bolstering them in all fields.  
They also called for supporting efforts exerted to mend Arab fences and unify Arab stands on various regional and international issues to serve the interests of the Arab Nation.  
The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by the delegation accompanying the King, which included His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid, the King's

military advisor Major General Hmeidi Al Fayed and the Jordanian ambassador in Muscat.  
On the Omani side, the meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Ben Abdul Mun'em Al Zawawi, Omani Royal Court Minister Seif Ben Hamad, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yousef Ben Alawi and Information Minister Abdul Aziz Rawwas.  
"By signing the (Oct. 26) treaty with Israel, Jordan regained all its rights, and Jordanian land and water have been restored."  
"We now face a new stage which we hope will be one of good and development for Jordan and for all Arab brethren."  
Jordan, he said, "will work incessantly by all means that can lead to the end of the state of no-war, no-peace from which the Arab World

## Arab and Israeli leaders to meet in Paris

PARIS (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa will meet in Paris on Feb. 18, conference organisers said on Tuesday.  
Along with French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, the leaders will address the opening session of a privately organised conference on the future of the Mediterranean region after Israeli-Palestinian peace and will have opportunities for private talks, the organisers told a news conference.  
The three-day session, organised by France's Radio Shalom and TFI television station and the Egyptian daily Al Ahram, will provide an opportunity to discuss the way forward for the peace process.  
Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat will arrive in Paris on Feb. 17 and stay in the same hotel, officials said.  
French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is involved in arranging several private meetings.  
Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Morocco's King Hassan II will address the conference by video link.

## Libya urges end to ban after media revelations

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya on Tuesday urged an immediate end to the U.N. sanctions, saying a Scottish report exonerated it from the December 1988 Lockerbie plane bombing that killed 270 people.  
"Evidence is accumulating daily, exonerating Libya and the two Libyan" suspects, state-run Libyan radio said.  
"Western allegations against the Great Jamhuriyah (Libya) are collapsing, its innocence is being proven (...) the unjust measures should be lifted immediately," it added.  
The Scottish Daily Record said Tuesday that newly released U.S. intelligence documents implicated Iran, not Libya, in the explosion of the Pan Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, alleging that an Iranian official commissioned the attack for \$10 million.  
The documents, dating back to 1991, said Tehran was seeking to avenge the shooting down of an Iranian Airbus with 290 people on board over the Gulf in July 1988 by the U.S. naval forces, the paper said. (see page 2).  
Britain and the United States have blamed two Libyans, Abdel Baset Al Meg-

rahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, for the Lockerbie bombing and have been seeking their extradition. Libya has persistently claimed its innocence.  
The U.N. Security Council imposed an air and arms embargo on Libya in April 1992 to force it to hand over the wanted men.  
Tehran on Tuesday denied any links with the Lockerbie bombing, saying the allegations were a Western campaign to sully Iran's image, the official news agency IRNA said.  
"Any claim that Iran is connected to the issue is baseless," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmoud Mohammadi told IRNA.  
"These charges are part of the propaganda launched by the Zionists and certain Western circles to harm the image of the Islamic republic," he said.  
"By resorting to such tactics, the Zionists seek to distract world public opinion away from their acts of terrorism around the world and justify their oppressive actions in the Middle East."  
Mr. Mohammadi said Iran was itself "a main victim of terrorism and condemns acts of terrorism in all its forms."

## OBITUARY

**The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Amman announces with deep grief the passing of the prominent Islamic personality**

**Engineer Mahdi Bazrakan**  
who had served as the first prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran following the victory of the Iranian Islamic Revolution.  
Mr. Bazrakan passed away following a heart attack at the age of 88.  
The embassy will open a special register for condolences on Saturday, January 28, from 9 a.m. and until 6 p.m.



## Reports: U.S. document says Iranian financed Pan Am bombing

LONDON (AP) — U.S. intelligence officials believed a former Iranian interior minister paid \$10 million in cash and gold to finance the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 which killed 270 people, according to reports obtained by British newspapers.

The former minister, identified as Ayatollah Ali Akbar Mohtashami, was also founder of the Lebanese Hizbollah group, the Times of London reported in their Tuesday editions.

The report by the super-secret U.S. National Security Agency, written during the 1991 Gulf war and declassified Monday, raises fresh questions about the U.S. and British account of the bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988, the Guardian newspaper wrote. The bombing killed all 259 people on the New York-bound plane and 11 on the ground.

Western intelligence agencies initially were reported to believe Iran commissioned a Syrian-based group, Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, to carry out the bombing after the United States accidentally shot down an Iranian airliner in July 1988.

But after a long investigation, that theory was sidelined and two Libyan intelligence officers, Abdul Basset Ali Al Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fimsh, were charged by U.S. and British law enforcement officials with being behind the bombing. Libya denies involvement and has refused to hand them over for trial, prompting U.N. sanctions against Libya.

The Guardian quoted the report as saying: "Mohtashami is closely connected with the Al Abbas and Abu Nidal terrorist groups... he has recently paid \$10 million in cash and gold to these two organisations to carry out terrorist activities and was the one who paid the same amount to bomb Pan Am Flight 103 in retaliation for the U.S. shoot down of the Iranian Airbus."

The Guardian said the report was declassified after a request under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act by lawyers representing insurers of the now defunct Pan Am airline. The act allows the disclosure of many government documents.

The report was then obtained by the makers of a

## Seminar debates women's development

BY Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of different sectors and institutions in the Kingdom and analysts on Tuesday discussed pressing problems facing development of women and population growth as a follow-up to the Cairo conference on population held in September.

But the heated debate was not over who is with or against women's rights, it was over the accuracy of the statistics and information given by the government.

In a speech entitled "Population in Jordan: Actual Figures and a Future Outlook," Musa Samha from the Jordan University presented an overall view of the changes that occurred in the last three decades in the social, economic and political fields.

According to Dr. Samha, foreigners represent 25 per cent of the labour force; there has been an increase in the use of contraceptives that has "probably" reached 40 per cent at present and unemployment in 1992 was estimated at 25 per cent.

Participants in the one-day seminar, which was organised by the Jordan Environment Society in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, took a special interest in analysing these figures especially concerning unemployment. One participant ques-

tioned the lecturer over the accuracy of such a figure (25 per cent) since the "government's estimates show unemployment rates at 14 per cent."

Another participant asked how unemployment, which was estimated at 25 per cent two years ago, could have dropped to 14 per cent at present while there are strong signs of an increase in unemployment.

"Doubts are cast over all these estimates," Dr. Samha answered the queries. "Concerned authorities hide the real figures but the fact remains that the unemployment rate is quite high."

Another issue debated was that of foreign labour in the Kingdom. Dr. Samha criticised the Jordanian mentality in terms of how parents choose for their children the kind of specialties they should take as their careers.

"All parents want their children to become engineers and doctors and employ all means to do so," he said. "While Jordanian students are willing to work abroad in restaurants and cafes, they would not do such a thing in their own country."

Almost all participants agreed on the need to upgrade the status of women but stressed that policies should be independent of any foreign influence. In an opening speech, Walter Rude, representing the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, highlighted the

positive results the Cairo conference came up with regarding women.

"Participating countries in the Cairo conference have not reached a general agreement (over certain issues) they have at least reached a consensus over the necessity to tackle population problems and give special attention to women's issues," Mr. Rude said.

As a result of the Cairo conference, \$17 billion will be available during the remaining years of the century to improve the education and health protection of women and children as well as the integration of women on all levels of public and economic life, he said.

"One important outcome of the Cairo conference was the concentration on better education for women," he added. "Well-educated women have a better chance to find employment and hold medium and senior positions that will (enable them) to be more independent. Working women decide for less children to give them better education and better chances in life."

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and Environment Nader Thuheirat said that Jordan suffers from a high population growth rate.

"This rate leads to an increase in the number of persons under 15 years of age and to the concentration of a large number of the population in the cities," he said in his speech delivered by Saleh

## Sheikh Isa says foreign elements behind unrest

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — The emir of Bahrain said in an interview published Tuesday that intervention by neighbouring countries had sparked Shiite Muslim rioting in his country.

Making his first public comments on the disturbances which first erupted in December, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa stopped short of naming the neighbours allegedly behind the unrest.

But in the interview with the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Ashraq Al Awsat he compared the Bahraini unrest to turmoil in Algeria and Egypt, which is widely blamed on Iranian-backed Muslim fundamentalists.

"There are foreign parties that we all know, who stand behind the painful incidents that took place in Bahrain," Sheikh Isa said.

"Regrettably, we are not the only ones for there are foreign parties that also direct the regrettable incidents in some Arab countries such as Algeria, Egypt and others."

"There are some neighbouring countries that interfere in our affairs. We may not be able to change or choose our neighbours, but this does not mean we will accept their interference in our internal affairs," he said.

"That is an issue which we cannot tolerate at all," Sheikh Isa added, without disclosing his options.

Street riots flared in Bahrain for two weeks in December and erupted anew last week. They were the worst trouble to hit Bahrain since an abortive coup plot blamed on Iran in 1981.

Bahrain recalled its ambassador from Tehran for consultations during the December unrest.

Bahraini authorities last week announced that they had deported an unspecified number of "infiltrators from abroad," accusing them of fomenting the unrest in mainly Shiite suburbs.

The authorities gave no names for the deportees but Sheikh Ali Salman and two

other Shiite clerics surfaced later in London, where they sought political asylum, according to their spokesman in the British capital. They flew there from Dubai.

Shiites, who are the predominant sect in Iran, make up an estimated 55 per cent of Bahrain's 500,000 population. The ruling Al Khalifa family is from the Sunni sect. Sheikh Salman, a 29-year-old preacher who was arrested briefly last summer for allegedly inciting unemployed young Shiites to demonstrate for jobs, was picked up again on Dec. 5 and charged with masterminding unrest to spread anarchy on the island.

It was his arrest that triggered the street rioting in which Bahraini opposition groups in exile claim as many as 10 people may have been killed.

Authorities have listed only one fatality, and have complained of damage to public and private property. They have released two batches of 150 and 200 from those detained in the clashes. There will be trials for a number of those still detained.

By the count of the statements from the authorities, there would still be at least 50 detained.

Exile opposition leaders have insisted that the unrest is not purely Shiite, but part of a wider campaign for the restoration of the parliament, which was disbanded 20 years ago, and for employment and an end to alleged human rights abuses.

Bahrain may adopt sanctions against Lebanon if the activities of Bahraini opposition leaders in Beirut are not halted, the daily Al Hayat reported Tuesday, quoting officials in Manama.

"A very limited number of non-Lebanese living in Beirut are fuelling hostile activities in Bahrain," one unidentified official told Al Hayat from the Bahraini capital.

"Bahrain is concerned over the Lebanese authorities' failure to keep these people in check," he said.

## U.S. warns Syria over 'terrorists'

WASHINGTON (USIA) —

Secretary of State Warren Christopher has urged Syria to stop providing safe haven for "terrorist" groups in the wake of a bombing Jan. 22 in Israel, the acting spokesman of the State Department said.

At least 19 people were killed and more than 60 were wounded when two bombs exploded minutes apart at a bus packed with Israeli military personnel near Nariya, in central Israel. The Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for the bombings.

Spokeswoman Christine Shelly noted that President Clinton issued "a very clear statement in reaction to the tragedy, condemning in the strongest possible terms the act of terrorist violence and calling upon those who have chosen the path of peace to condemn this act and to redouble all of their efforts to achieve a secure and lasting peace."

"It is a tragic incident. We share the pain and anger that the Israelis feel at this type of event," she said, adding that the Israeli government, noting that the Israeli government, in a cabinet meeting late Jan. 22, decided to carry on their negotiations with the PLO.

"As the president and the secretary stated in their messages to Prime Minister Rabin, we must continue the peace process," Ms. Shelly said. "To do otherwise would hand the terrorist their greatest victory. Indeed, des-

troying the hopes for peace is exactly what the terrorists are seeking," she declared.

"What we're trying to do is move the process forward and show those who wish to destroy the peace process that they cannot do that, that they will not be successful," the acting spokeswoman said.

"That's also the signal that the Israeli government, as recently as last night, has given."

While the United States looks to the participants in the Middle East peace process to signal their intentions, the United States will continue to facilitate contacts between the parties. "Certainly we believe that the contacts that we have helped to facilitate are an important part of that process," Ms. Shelly said, but she declined to get into a detailed discussion of the contacts.

The acting spokeswoman declined to characterise the Syrian side of the conversation between Mr. Christopher and Mr. Sharaa. She acknowledged she has not personally seen any "public, official response on the part of the Syrians. But this is obviously something we'll be interested in seeing," she added.

Pressed by reporters on the issue of whether or not the Palestinian authority headed by Mr. Arafat is doing enough to curb "terrorists," Ms. Shelly said statements

issued in the aftermath of incidents such as these are certainly important.

"But clearly the actions that follow those statements are even more important," she said. "Therefore, actions that seek to apprehend and to punish perpetrators in the areas which fall under the authority of the Palestinian authority — that is also something which is very important and which we track closely," she said.

The acting spokeswoman pointed out that actions such as the bombings "can have certainly an impact on public perceptions and on the general atmosphere in which the peace process takes place, but she declined to get into a long-term analysis.

Asked if the time has arrived to seek international sanctions against Syria, Ms. Shelly said the United States feels that dealing with Syria's support for "terrorists" is best handled in our bilateral channels," noting that Mr. Christopher and other senior U.S. officials take up the issue with the Syrians virtually every time they visit the region.

"It's part of the ongoing dialogue," she said. "We feel that's the most appropriate channel." The fact that there are indications that Syrian support for terrorist groups continues "is a point of concern for us," the acting spokeswoman said.

## Drug dealers lead way in Israeli-Palestinian cooperation

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) —

Drug dealers from Israel and the Palestinian territories worked together long before the Israel-Palestinian autonomy accords, but the two sides' police officers still refuse to join forces to stamp out the illegal trade.

Moshe Rodrigue, head of Israel's drugs squad, told AFP: "Israeli and Palestinian drugs traffickers worked together for years before the peace accords" which launched Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho last May.

"There is no religious or nationalistic discrimination in this field," he added, however: "So far there is no cooperation between Israeli police and the Palestinian self-rule au-

thority's force in the fight against drugs."

"Each force operates within its own area," he said. "Traffic from both sides had set up various points of sale and circulation for drugs at entrances to Arab East Jerusalem and inside the city."

"These points, called Tahannut in Hebrew, operated during the day and in the evening," Mr. Rodrigue said. In the past, the Israeli police arrested many soldiers who dealt in drugs from Lebanon, through networks which included both Israelis and Arabs, he said.

During the intifada from 1987 onwards, some Israeli drug dealers and consumers ventured "at the risk of their lives" into Palestinian areas

where Jewish soldiers did not dare to follow.

Colonel Jibril Rajoub, Palestinian police chief in Jericho, also bemoaned the "lack of cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian police" to stamp out drug-trafficking.

"Palestinian policemen work alone," Mr. Rajoub said. Israeli police "are scared of us," he said.

Palestinians have repeatedly accused Israel of flooding the territories with drugs "to destroy Palestinian society."

But Mr. Rodrigue firmly denied the charges. Israeli police "have never turned a blind eye to the traffic of drugs in the West Bank or Gaza Strip."

"We have never wanted to legalise this trade in any way and will not do so in the future," the Israeli chief added.

"Drugs affect Israeli society as well as Palestinians," he said, deploring "the lack of cooperation from the Palestinians for political reasons."

The Palestinian police force was set up last May in line with the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles, signed in Washington in September 1993.

Israel is a consumer of drugs and not a drugs-producing country, Mr. Rodrigue added.

Most narcotics arrived in the Jewish state from Lebanon and India, he said. "What Israel does not consume is sent on to Europe," he said.

## Israeli U.N. envoy urges cutting of links with Iran

UNITED NATIONS (R) —

Israeli U.N. envoy Gad Yaacobi said on Monday the international community should cut all economic, arms and technology links with Iran in response to what he called Tehran's role in threatening many Middle East countries.

"Any direct or indirect support for Iran has to be stopped," he told reporters after sending a letter to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali giving details of a suicide bombing on Sunday north of Tel Aviv which killed 19 Israelis and wounded more than 60.

Mr. Yaacobi said the bombing was carried out by the Palestinian members of the militant Islamic Jihad movement from Gaza and that it would be ridiculous to say they were personally dispatched by Iran.

But he added: "The question is: Who is supporting the Islamic Jihad... who is the supporter of those organisations, who is supplying them with finance, the arms, the training, who is encouraging them to do that?"

The Israeli envoy said: "Any economic cooperation with Iran has to be stopped. Any supply of equipment, armaments, technology, has to be stopped, unless the



## Princess Fawziah women's

ERASH (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Fawziah met here with Parliament members representing the Governorate of Irbid and members of the women's committees in the Irbid region to review issues of concern to women.

Discussion covered draft laws currently before the Lower House of Parliament designed to promote the role of women and increase their participation in public life.

Addressing the meeting, the Princess said that the women's committees in the governorate have been created to help women present their demands to Parliament. The Princess suggested that the committees prepare periodic reports covering

ERASH (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Ishaidat Tuesday said ministry teams will start searching for water resources and drilling artesian wells in Jerash Governorate to help increase water supplies for residents.

Speaking during an inspection tour of the Jerash and Ajloun regions, Dr. Ishaidat said the ministry completed a study on a sewerage project for Souf town and Souf refugee camp, noting that the project would cost JD 4.2 million provided in loan form from the World Bank.

He said the ministry plans to purchase equipment specifically for use in the governorates outside Amman to help in water resources development and management.

The minister was replying to complaints presented by two Lower House deputies representing Jerash Governorate.

Miftah Rumeini and Suleiman Saad outlined the needs of the local citizens, particularly the water shortage and

international community is passive about the role of Iran in threatening not just Israel and the territories (Gaza and the West Bank) and the Palestinians and the peace process, but countries like Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and others."

In his letter to the secretary-general, now abroad, Mr. Yaacobi said 110 Israelis had been killed in 49 attacks since the signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation accord in September.

"These attacks were committed by Islamic fundamentalist terrorists affiliated with organisations that receive support and guidance from certain states in the region."

"These, no less than the perpetrators themselves, bear responsibility for the violence and should be held accountable," the letter added, without mentioning Iran or any other country by name.

Mr. Yaacobi, who also scheduled a meeting with Security Council President Emilio Cardenas of Argentina to discuss Sunday's bombing, called in his letter for "the entire international community to cooperate in combating all forms of terrorism."

AMMAN — Two people died Monday in two separate incidents involving kerosene heaters, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) and police reports.

In the first incident, a 75-year-old woman died in Quesmeih when a lit kerosene heater fell on her mattress.

The victim's son told police that the heating unit was near the mattress where his mother was sleeping when it was accidentally knocked over by the victim, the report said.

According to the report, the fire spread quickly in the house and the victim, Fawziyah Ali, suffered third degree burns and died before reaching the hospital.

Also in Mafrqa, a 45-year-old bedouin woman died in a fire started when a kerosene heater fell in her tent, police and CDD reports said.

A CDD official told the Jordan Times that the victim, Salmeh Suleiman, lived alone in the tent.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b>	
17:00	Diplodo
17:30	Musique Sans Frontiers
18:00	News in French
19:30	Home Improvement
19:45	E=Mc
20:00	Law and Order
21:30	The Cinder Path
22:00	News in English
22:30	Prim
22:40	Snowy River
22:59	Keeping Up Appearances
<b>PRAYER TIMES</b>	
05:09	Fajr
06:29	(Sunrise) Duha
11:48	Dhuhr
14:42	Asr
17:06	Maghreb
18:26	Isha
<b>CHURCHES</b>	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifield, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632745	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630651, Tel. 626343	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624325	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 634932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
<b>WEATHER</b>	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be sunny with clouds appearing at low altitudes. Temperatures will be around average and winds southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds northerly active and seas choppy.	
Min./Max. temp. Amman ..... 2/12	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Aqaba ..... 8/19	Desert ..... 0/14
Jordan Valley ..... 0/21	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13 Aqaba 18, Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.	
<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>	
<b>NIGHT DUTY</b>	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Fakhr Tayeh ..... 885880	
Dr. Ghazi Abu Sheikha ..... 752405	
Dr. Nidal Al Dalieh ..... 527109	
Dr. Bassam Kurashieh ..... 750200	
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912	
Fordous pharmacy ..... 778336	
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637955	
Nairook pharmacy ..... 628672	
Al Salsan pharmacy ..... 636730	
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 649485	
Stomosis pharmacy ..... 637440	
Nairook pharmacy ..... 628672	
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632	
IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Al Shogair ..... 246140	
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)	
<b>HOSPITALS</b>	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre 613431/32	
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/8	
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2	
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642562	
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140	
Palestine, Shamsan ..... 664171/4	
University Hospital ..... 658465	
Al-Masheer Hospital ..... 667279/9	
The Islamic, Adabi ..... 666127/7	
Al-Ahli, Adabi ..... 664144/4	
Italian, Al-Masheer ..... 77101/3	
Al-Bashe, J. Adabi ..... 77111/2	
Army, Marica ..... 816111/5	
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 662240/50	
Amal Hospital ..... 674155	
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)95223	
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900540	
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)66672	
Al-Hajj Modern Hospital (09)40909	
IRBID:	
Proccas Baza Hospital (02)75555	
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72775	
Al-Nabtes Hospital (02)37100	
AQABA:	
Proccas Hava Hospital (03)41411	
<b>FOR THE TRAVELLER</b>	
<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>	
<b>ARRIVALS</b>	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:45	Aqaba (RJ)
08:35	Jeddah (RJ)
09:05	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55	Lamaca (RJ)
10:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
10:35	London (RJ)
11:05	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:45	Istanbul (RJ)
12:10	Colombo (RJ)
12:30	Beirut (RJ)
12:40	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
13:00	Riyadh (RJ)
13:30	Aden (RJ)







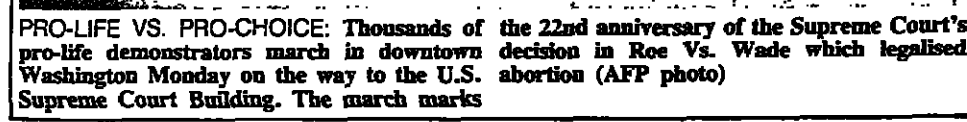
## Officers summoned for Pyongyang military rally

The source said a team of U.S. specialists, joined by experts from the U.N. International Atomic Energy

In addition, North Korea also is to receive substitute fuel oil and limited U.S. diplomatic recognition. As a first step toward normalising relations, the United States and North Korea have agreed to exchange liaison offices.

The junior Kim, accompanied by top military leaders, attended the 1983 rally in a show of leadership over the North's powerful armed

The forum was proposed earlier this month by Japanese Defence Agency Director-General Tokuichiro Tamazawa, who said he wanted China, Japan, North and South Korea, Russia and the United States to discuss security in northeast Asia.



**PRO-LIFE VS. PRO-CHOICE:** Thousands of pro-life demonstrators march in downtown Washington Monday on the way to the U.S. Supreme Court Building. The march marks the 22nd anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in Roe Vs. Wade which legalised abortion (AFP photo)

## Big no longer beautiful in weight watch island kingdom

ample. Before he trimmed down in recent years, the monarch was listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's heaviest monarch at more than 200 kilograms (441 pounds). Now he sticks to a strict diet and regular exercise regime. To

Senate: President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) enjoy a comfortable majority in both

# Tamil gr rebels of

## Defence v car: judg

... request to make the  
prosecution use of:  
... ..

The influential youth wing of the ruling Basotho Land Congress Party (BCP) has called in pamphlets for people to stay away from work and the mines.

tough and well-armed irregulars instead of decadent bandits as they had been led to believe, talk of squads of crack women snipers on the streets of Grozny.

There are stories from both sides of gruesome atrocities and prisoners massacred, again, no evidence.

The Chechens tell tales of Russians dumping bodies to conceal casualty figures, whatever they may be. North.

Kazakhstan in 1994.

This time, Chechens say most of the 400,000 people living in Grozny were taken away in trucks to one of the main Russian bases nearby, Muzdok in neighbouring North Ossetia.

stop anarchy. "I don't think we are going to see a lot of baring in at bus stops or riotous behaviour. We're still a fairly well-mannered society," a spokeswoman said. "Many people probably did not realise there was a law to see bloody crime scene photographs of the victims' bodies during opening statements despite defence objections. Mr. Ho turned aside a defence request to make the prosecution use a heart."

Prime Minister (Gyula) Horn nor President (Arpad) Gombosi will receive him during this visit," said Erika Torzsok, deputy state secretary.

On Jan. 20, the Moscow newspaper Rossiiskie Vesti, which supports President

"Many people probably did not realise there was a law to







## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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## Space for tolerance

THE RECENT incarceration of Adel Hussein, the secretary general of the Egyptian Labour Union, by Egyptian authorities has clearly galvanised opposition from not only the Egyptian Press Association but also from the bar association and other professional groups in the country. At stake for all those who made their opposition to the imprisonment of Mr. Hussein loud and clear was the liberty and freedom of thought and expression.

Before he was released, some political activists went as far as going on a hunger strike to drive home their concern about the fate of human rights in Egypt.

Without going into the merits or demerits of the case presented against Mr. Hussein, one has to note that there is still an apparent low threshold of tolerance for opposing views not only in Egypt but elsewhere in the Arab World. On some occasions, even the most benign rejection of state policy incurs the wrath of Arab governments. This leads us to conclude that the culture of human rights has yet to spring deep and lasting roots in our societies. To be sure the lack of a culture for freedom of thought can be attributed not only to governments but also to opposition groups and other elements in society. Yet we know only too well that there has not been a single people which was able to enter the stage of reformation and enlightenment without the benefit of free flow of ideas including those that may appear to so many of us as unpopular or unacceptable. Obviously there is no quick fix to cultivating a culture for genuine human rights. It has taken generations for other societies to develop such a culture, and it looks like it is also going to take us some time, here in the Arab World, to reach libertarian ideals and goals.

The burden of promoting and protecting tolerance and democracy must rest not only on the shoulders of political liberals: All democrats, whether conservative in orientation or leftist or otherwise, must join forces to uphold the culture of democracy, pluralism and human rights. Where the work should or could be done is not a subject of argument or controversy. Political parties' headquarters, institutions of higher learning and the media are the natural places to begin and augment the effort. Progressively, new institutions have to be established and supported. But we have to start now.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

TAREQ MASARWEH a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, Tuesday said that Sunday's suicide bombings in Israel are one form of resistance to Israeli occupation similar to acts carried out by the Lebanese resistance in southern Lebanon. Saying that the Rabin government seems unable to stop suicide attacks carried out by Palestinians, the writer said that acts of violence will not end by holding the Palestine National Authority (PNA) responsible for attacks on Israeli targets. The Israeli government, said the writer, realises that it was due to a series of suicide attacks in Lebanon that the Americans and the Israelis were forced to abandon their occupation of Beirut. The Palestinian resistance, which is now transforming the stone-throwing intifada into bombing attacks, could at the end force the Israelis out of the occupied Arab lands, said the writer. He said the Israelis should realise that the Palestinians, who were evicted from their homes since 1948 under the force of acts of Jewish terrorism, are now paying back in the same coin. The Israelis are now facing the consequences of their own acts against the Palestinians, who have been oppressed, killed, imprisoned or evicted from their towns and villages for decades, he added.

A WRITER in Al Dustour urged the Social Security Corporation (SSC) to take measures to design a health insurance plan for hundreds of thousands of people living around the poverty line. Ahmad Shaker said that the SSC holdings are in the hundreds of millions of dinars and the corporation is in a position to initiate this system and provide health insurance to Jordanians for certain monthly payments. Such a plan would not only be in implementation of the present government's drive to improve the living conditions of poor and needy people, but would also ensure more stable and secure lives for the majority of the Jordanians, said the writer. Many retired people have no medical insurance, said the writer. The SSC, which has been hesitant to take steps towards introducing a comprehensive health insurance plan, said the writer, should realise that there are numerous benefits in the implementation of such a scheme.

### Washington Watch

## 30 years later, Martin Luther King's dream still denied

By Dr. James Zogby

'What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up?... Or does it explode?'

IT WAS just three decades ago that the American civil rights movement, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, succeeded in pressing the U.S. Congress to pass into law the Civil Rights Act of 1965. It was an amazing period of transformation and hope in American society.

Thirty years later, an entire generation of Americans have no recollection of the era of legal segregation and discrimination under which African-Americans were denied the right to vote, use public facilities, eat at the same restaurants as whites, live in "white" neighbourhoods or go to "white" schools. Even fewer Americans know that the despised system of apartheid that governed the lives of South African blacks was based on the racist system that had been imposed on African-Americans in the south of the U.S. and which lasted for almost 100 years.

The civil rights movement, led by Dr. King, exposed the evils of segregation in the south and challenged whites in the north to face up to their own less formal system of social discrimination that denied African-Americans rights in almost every sector of U.S. political and social life.

The decade of the 1960s was a time of great hope and change. Two democratic presidents, John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson moved, at first with hesitation but ultimately with great vigour, to make real the promise of equality and justice for African-Americans.

Schools were ordered to be desegregated and racially integrated. And where racist state governors and mayors resisted, federal soldiers were used to escort African-American children to school. Restaurants and other public places were ordered desegregated and racist housing laws were abolished. And in 1965, when the voting rights of African-Americans were guaranteed, race could no longer be used as a basis for denying the right to vote or to impose barriers which made voting more difficult.

The non-violent mass movement of hundreds of thousands, led by Dr. King, energised and gave hope to African-Americans, challenged the conscience of the nation's leaders and reshaped the U.S. legal landscape.

While all of this must be recognised as positive and significant steps forward, it must also be understood that 30 years later, African-Americans remain disproportionately poor, crowded into increasingly dilapidated inner city ghetto housing, and victims of racial bias in the economic, social and political spheres.

It was 32 years ago that Dr. King spoke of his dream from the steps of Lincoln Memorial in the U.S. capital, where he said:

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.' ... I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."

Today, King's dream is still not a reality for the majority of African-Americans in the U.S. And, moreover, there have been some reverses of the progress that was made in the 1960s.

Government-led programmes to produce integration have made white bitterness as a by-product. "Affirmative action" programmes, which were designed to give American-Americans compensatory opportunities to make up for the opportunities denied to them during the three centuries of slavery and institutional racism, have also produced a feeling among some whites that they are being denied opportunities, that such programmes have gone too far and must be stopped or reversed. And while this sentiment is particularly prevalent in the south, it is a national phenomenon.

From the height of the civil rights movement in the 1960s and the support it received from Democratic presidents and the Democratic Congress, there has been an erosion of southern white support for the Democratic Party. Republicans have actively courted these alienated white voters (a disproportionate number of whom are men). As the November elections demonstrated, the shift of southern white voter allegiance to the Republican Party produced the Republican takeover of Congress. This shift will result in a negative impact on federal social programmes primarily targeted to assist African-Americans.

Republican victories based in part on calling for an end to those social programmes designed in the 1960s have caused even some Democrats to abandon this agenda. African-Americans are watching these changes, which are causing them to feel even more isolated as they watch support for their concerns fade in Washington, even in people who were once considered allies.

Earlier in this century, Langston Hughes, an African-American poet, wrote: "What happens to a dream deferred Does it dry up Like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore — ... Maybe it just sags Like a heavy load. Or does it explode?"

The effects of these denied dreams on African-Americans, of their growing sense of frustration and loss, and of what has now become endemic poverty and deprivation, have been devastating. As Reverend Jesse Jackson, an early follower of Dr. King, and one of the leading voices in the African-American community today, has noted that the prolonged pain of African-Americans has become internalised and has produced self-destructive behaviour, especially among the young. In a speech on the crisis facing African-American youths, delivered a year ago, Reverend Jackson observed:

"... The combination of social and economic neglect on the one hand and aggressive negative rhetoric and actions on the other — by both political parties, the private sector, our education and health care systems, along with inadequate housing and environmental racism — over a protracted period of time, has resulted in turning serious problems into institutionalised conditions with violent consequences. It has produced an underclass of people with aggressive negative self-esteem ... They value neither their own life nor the life of another."

The statistics are overwhelming and disheartening. African-American unemployment remains more than twice that of whites (13.8 per cent to 6.2 per cent). Among young African-American men, aged 18-35, the unemployment rate is 31 per cent. The percentage of African-American families living below the official poverty line is a staggering 33 per cent, while only 11 per cent of white families are poor. This deep disparity exists even among those who work. The average white family income is \$40,000, while the average income for an African-American family is only \$22,000.

M. KAHIL



## Murky political landscape for post-Yeltsin Russia

By Larry Ryckman  
 The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's bloody war in Chechnya and the chaos in the Kremlin are forcing Western leaders to look beyond Boris Yeltsin.

They might not like what they see. The view of Moscow's political landscape is murky at best, with no clear successors to the Russian president emerging from the shadows.

Volatile Russian politics can turn on a dime, but at the moment it seems no one could be elected, including and especially, Mr. Yeltsin. His five-year term expires in June 1996, and it is not clear whether he'll even seek reelection.

Russians have long been cynical about their leaders, but the anger and disgust now directed at all political factions is startling. Not a single major figure, from ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to reformer Yegor Gaidar, has escaped the tarnish of public life.

For some, that raises the troubling prospect of ambitious generals or Kremlin cabals conspiring to ensure that the next presidential election is never held.

The man many in the West would like to see in charge, former prime

minister Gaidar, is too closely associated with the increasingly unpopular president and his even more unpopular economic reforms.

Mr. Gaidar has broken with Mr. Yeltsin over Chechnya, but his appeals for mass anti-war demonstrations have generated about as much enthusiasm as his cold, professorial campaign speeches.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy, who declared his presidential candidacy yet again this week, reformers in parliamentary elections.

His many campaign promises have gone unkept and his outrageous pronouncements elicit more shrugs than shock. Today, he is the only top politician more distrusted than Mr. Yeltsin in public opinion surveys.

"In any election, (Zhirinovskiy) can't receive more than 10 per cent," said Yuri Levada, the director of the Russian Centre for Public Opinion and Market Research. "He is a really unpopular person."

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, second in power only to Mr. Yeltsin, would have to be considered the favourite in a presidential race. U.S. Vice President Al Gore has maintained close contacts

with Mr. Chernomyrdin, a former director of the Soviet Union's giant natural gas industry.

Mr. Chernomyrdin presents a solid image, but he seems uncomfortable with the speech-making and glad-handing of modern politics. Still, some believe this lack of spark could be appealing to a public tired of turmoil.

One newspaper said Mr. Chernomyrdin had boosted his chances by stepping forward in the past week as a peacekeeper in the Chechen crisis.

"If the day before yesterday the world was still trying to guess whether there was an alternative to Boris Yeltsin, today some will probably see the answer in the face of the prime minister," the daily Kommersant said Tuesday.

Like Gaidar, however, Mr. Chernomyrdin is a close ally of Mr. Yeltsin, a factor that could hurt him in a national election.

Another close Yeltsin associate, Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, is often mentioned as a possible candidate for president in 1996, but his support outside the capital remains in question.

Contenders less palatable in Western circles are

Communist Party chief Gennady Zyuganov and former vice president Alexander Rutskoi. Although communists have returned to power in some former Soviet satellites, there appears to be little appetite in Russia for either man.

With all of the disdain for professional politicians, it is perhaps not surprising that an outside was the one national figure to see his standing rise in the past year.

Gen. Alexander Lebed, Russia's most outspoken soldier, openly admires Chile's former dictator, Gen. Augusto Pinochet, but says he has no plans to seek the presidency himself.

His public criticism of Mr. Yeltsin as a "minus" would have gotten him fired in any other country, but Gen. Lebed is apparently too popular to touch. For now, the commander of Russia's 14th Army would apparently settle for the job of defence minister, when and if it becomes available.

"My bet is, if we have new elections, most likely our new president will come from outside the Moscow establishment," said Andrei Kortunov, an analyst with the Institute of the USA and Canada.

## Israeli economy spells trouble for Rabin

By Tova Cohen  
 Reuters

TEL AVIV — To judge by economic growth of seven per cent in 1994 and unemployment down by a quarter, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin might have expected Israel's economy to give him little trouble in the opinion polls.

But a plummeting stock market, rising inflation and high interest rates have created a grim economic climate. Analysts now say his government has to come up with solutions fast or face the consequences in next year's general elections.

"Rabin finally understands that the issue of the economy can topple him," said Mordechai Trotoush, acting president of the Israel Federation of Chambers of Commerce.

Even officials privately admit the economy, not peace, will decide the future of the government. And Israel's economy, as ever, has proved perplexing even for the experts, giving out strong positive and negative signals at the same time.

"Israel's economy is basically healthy — but with problems," said Jonathan Katz, senior economist at capital holdings consultants.

While the economy grew at one of the fastest rates in the Western world, inflation rose 14.5 per cent, the highest since 1991, and the balance of payments deficit more than doubled to \$3.0 billion.

To reign in inflation, the central bank raised interest rates seven times during the course of the year. Each time, the Israeli media unleashed a barrage of debate and complaints from the public and industrialists.

The result was a weekly stock market whose major index plunged 37 per cent. Privatisation virtually came to a halt as the government managed to raise only \$204

million from company self-offs, well down from \$1.2 billion in 1993.

The government does not seem prepared to do anything," Mr. Trotoush said.

Israelis' dissatisfaction with the government's handling of the economy has led to infighting among cabinet members.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal stoked the embers before a cabinet meeting on Sunday, sending Mr. Rabin a scathing criticism of Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's economic policy.

Local media quoted Mr. Shahal's report as saying the government was "hurting full speed toward an economic disaster."

But all ministers could agree on, after a marathon meeting, was to lower the volume on their debate over who was to blame.

Analysts see little prospects for improvement in 1995.

"I don't see the problem of the balance of payments being solved in 1995," said Hezy Gutman, head of economics at the powerful Manufacturers' Association.

The civilian trade deficit ballooned to \$8.3 billion in 1994 from \$6 billion in 1993 and Mr. Gutman does not expect this figure to narrow in 1995.

Exporters say another problem is the shekel, which has been propped up by high domestic interest rates. The Bank of Israel has resisted all calls for a devaluation.

"They (the bank) say a devaluation will cause instability but an appreciation is just as unstable," Mr. Gutman said.

He drew comparisons with Mexico, whose economy plunged into a crisis last month when the government allowed the peso to float freely. The result was a 35 per cent devaluation.

## Text between

FOLLOWING is the text of the Jordanian-Palestinian Committee which ended its

Preamble

Stemming from the historic and deep-rooted ties between the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples and with the aim of the attainment of common interests and goals, and reiterating the desire of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Palestine to achieve the highest level of cooperation and integration in all fields, based on the close ties that prove a solid ground for elevating bilateral relations to advanced levels and integration in the interests of both peoples within the context of a common future, and to enhance and support all good efforts exerted by our brothers in the Arab countries to attain the aspired goals and boost the standing of our Arab Nation and enable it to confront the challenges, and as an expression of our common aspirations and noble goals that are sought by both parties, the two sides have agreed that it is crucial to formulate a unified strategy based on the following principles:

1. The necessity of comprehensive and constant coordination between the two sides to attain the common goals in the interest of both peoples.
2. The two sides affirm that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are special and unique and constitute a model to enhance the potentials and capabilities of the Arab Nation and to extend bridges of trust, understanding and cooperation among the (Arab) people, enabling the Arab Nation to assume its responsibilities and its deserved place (in the international community), especially in the light of international developments.
3. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan reiterated its constant and continuous support for the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to attain their right to self-determination on their national soil and to establish an independent Palestinian state, and to support the Palestinian quest to implement the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles (DoP) as a step towards the realisation of the Palestinian people's national rights.
4. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will cooperate with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in all fields, and will provide all the needed expertise to build national institutions capable of assuming their responsibilities and tasks in the interests of the Palestinian people.
5. The two sides reiterate their commitment to the concept of a comprehensive solution on the basis of international legitimacy and United Nations Security Council resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the restoration of all legitimate rights.
6. The two sides pledge to work jointly towards inter-Arab reconciliation and the achievement of Arab solidarity in the interest of the brotherly peoples and all of the Arab Nation in order to boost opportunities for just peace that will guarantee security and development for the good of the Arab people, to consolidate (the Arab Nation's) collective belonging and to safeguard human dignity.

(Continued from page 1)

Jordan-Israel peace treaty

he said.

In the Israel-PLO context, the EU fully supported the Palestinian rejection of settlements in the occupied territories and affirmed the Palestinian right to self-determination in the occupied territories, including Israel, and in peace within secure borders.

"We deem the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as illegal," he said, "and we clearly know that the Israeli occupation is illegal."

He said the EU was consistent in its position on the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

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## Text of draft accord between Jordan, PNA

**FOLLOWING is the text of the draft agreement concluded by the Jordanian-Palestinian Economic and Financial Committee which ended its meetings in Amman Monday:**

### Preamble

Stemming from the historic and deep-rooted ties between the Jordanian and the Palestinian peoples, and with the aim of the attainment of common interests and goals, and reiterating the desire of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Palestine to achieve the highest level of cooperation and integration in all fields, based on the close ties that prove a solid ground for elevating bilateral relations to advanced levels and integration in the interests of both peoples within the context of a common future, and to enhance and support all good efforts exerted with our brothers in the Arab countries to attain the aspired goals and boost the standing of our Arab Nation and enable it to confront the challenges, and as an expression of our common aspirations and noble goals that are sought by both parties, the two sides have agreed that it is crucial to formulate a unified strategy based on the following principles:

1. The necessity of comprehensive and constant coordination between the two sides to attain the common goals in the interest of both peoples.

2. The two sides affirm that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are special and unique and constitute a model to enhance the potentials and capabilities of the Arab Nation and to extend bridges and cooperation among the (Arab) people, enabling the Arab Nation to assume its responsibilities and its deserved place (in the international community), especially in the light of international developments.

3. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan reiterated its constant and continuous support for the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), to attain their right to self-determination on their national soil and to establish an independent Palestinian state, and to support the Palestinian quest to implement the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles (DoP) as a step towards the realisation of the Palestinian people's national rights.

4. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will cooperate with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in all fields, and will provide all the needed expertise to build national institutions capable of assuming their responsibilities and tasks in the interests of the Palestinian people.

5. The two sides reiterate their commitment to the concept of a comprehensive solution on the basis of international legitimacy and United Nations Security Council resolutions 242, 338, and 435 and the restoration of all legitimate rights.

6. The two sides pledge to work jointly towards inter-Arab reconciliation and the achievement of Arab solidarity in the interest of the brotherly peoples and all of the Arab Nation in order to boost opportunities for a just peace that will guarantee security and development for the good of the Arab people, to consolidate (the Arab Nation's) collective belonging, and to safeguard human rights and dignity.

7. The two pledge continuous cooperation and coordination in all regional and international forums and organisations to serve the interests of both sides and the higher Arab interests.

8. The agreement that Jordan signed with Israel on Oct. 26, 1994 constitutes an important step towards the restoration of Jordan's sovereign rights on its land, water and borders and towards securing the rights of the (Palestinian) refugees displaced in 1948 and 1967 in accordance with international laws and resolutions. The agreement also enhances the other tracks of negotiations in a way that secures the attainment of Arab legitimate rights.

9. In order to complement all aspects of coordination and consultation and to serve the interests of the two peoples, the two sides believe it is crucial to re-activate the Jordanian-Palestinian higher committee to follow up mutual issues of concern, and provide an appropriate mechanism that would ensure the realisation of the two peoples' interests through constant and direct contacts.

### First: Monetary Affairs

1. The two sides agree that the Jordanian dinar will remain the currency in use in addition to the other currencies in circulation in the self-rule areas.

Being so, it will be a legal means for payment for all purposes and official dealings and will be accepted by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and its various institutions as well as banks.

2. The two sides agree to committing themselves to entering into comprehensive and early negotiations aimed at organising the process of exchanging Jordanian dinars in the self-rule areas for local Palestinian currency. They also commit themselves to taking arrangements and other obligations required in this respect should the PNA decide to have separate Palestinian currency.

The two sides also pledge to refrain from taking any abrupt unilateral measures concerning monetary affairs under any circumstances that could adversely affect the monetary stability in any of the two countries or negatively affect their mutual economic dealings.

3. The Palestinian side undertakes to make all local payments in the Jordanian dinar until the new Palestinian currency has been issued.

### Second: Banking

#### 1. The licensing of banks in PNA areas

1.1 The PNA will issue licences to commercial banks operating in the self-rule areas. This covers Jordanian banks opening branches in Palestinian territories.

1.2. The Jordanian and the Palestinian sides will offer the required facilities (under the existing legislations in Jordan and Palestine) for businesses to open branches or offices for the Jordanian or the Palestinian banks in either country if these banks have their head offices in Jordan or in the Palestinian lands.

1.3. Licences issued by the Central Bank of Jordan to Jordanian banks operating in the West Bank which will later fall under the jurisdiction of the PNA will remain valid provided that these banks be subject to any new legislations issued by the PNA in the future.

The two sides agreed to coordinate their work concerning the licensing of new branches for Jordanian banks which have not been licensed before the signing of this agreement until the PNA takes charge of all authorities in the occupied West Bank.

### 2. Control and supervision of banking operations

2.1. The two sides agreed to set up a joint committee from the Central Bank of Jordan and the Palestine Monetary Authority to undertake the task of laying the foundations and the mechanism to conduct control and supervision on branches and offices of Jordanian banks operating in the Palestinian territories in a manner that would ensure sound liquidity for these banks. This procedure will continue until the Palestine Monetary Authority has finalised its own control and supervision system.

2.2. The Basel Agreement will serve as reference in matters related to the process of coordinating control over banks and the distribution of authorities between the two sides.

The Palestine Monetary Authority and the Central Bank of Jordan will exchange information and data on Jordanian banks and bank offices operating in the Palestinian lands via the joint committee mentioned under item 2.1.

They will also exchange statistics related to Jordanian dinars deposited in non-Jordanian banks operating in the Palestinian territories.

The Central Bank of Jordan will present the PNA through the joint committee any information on statistics connected with the activities of Palestinian banks that are operating or would be operating in Jordan and those of Jordanian banks operating on the West Bank.

2.4 The Central Bank of Jordan will offer expertise and services to the Palestinian side to help it create a Palestine Monetary Authority and recruit cadres for banking operations within a programme conducted by the Central Bank of Jordan and the training facilities of banks in Jordan.

2.5. The Jordanian side will make available sufficient reserve liquidity in Jordanian dinars for Jordanian banks operating in the self-rule areas in accordance with rules to be set by the joint committee.

The two sides will conduct immediate consultations in case of emergency in line with policy to be worked out by the joint committee.

6.2 The two sides will conduct immediate consultations to deal with any emergency in monetary questions related to the circulation of Jordanian dinars in the self-rule regions.

This agreement will be revised at the request of any of the two parties and whenever the need arises.

## Jordan unlikely to get major EU debt write-off — diplomats

**By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter**

**AMMAN** — Chances of Jordan realising its quest for a substantial write-off of its debts owed to the Paris Club of creditor governments are slim, given the economic preoccupation of some of the European countries and the non-urgent nature of the Jordanian request, two European diplomats said Tuesday.

The diplomats also said Jordan's means to attain self-sufficiency and economic advancement were mainly through making itself attractive to foreign investment and this is a task that the Kingdom had to undertake on its own.

The assertions were made by French Ambassador Bernard Bajolet and German Charge d'Affaires Michael Bock at a press conference held to mark the French assumption of office as the rotating president of the European Union (EU) with effect from Jan. 1.

They were answering a question how far the EU had gone in fulfilling its promise of "investment for peace" seen as inevitable if Arab-Israeli peace accords were to be sustained and consolidated.

About \$3.5 billion of Jordan's foreign debts are owed to the Paris Club. More than two-thirds of it have been

rescheduled since 1989. Under an agreement reached last year, Jordan will be paying token amounts of interest until 1997, when fresh rescheduling negotiations are expected on the outstanding amount.

Mr. Bajolet said EU members accounted for 60 per cent of the \$1.2 billion of Jordanian debts that were rescheduled under "very generous terms" in June 1994.

"I don't expect (the EU) to go any further than this" in debt relief for Jordan, said the ambassador. He also noted that the total EU assistance to Jordan in 1994, in the form of contribution by individual governments and aid channelled by the EU Executive Commission, was 300 million European currency units (ECUs), or about \$340 million.

The amount of debt write-off offered by EU member states to Jordan in 1994 was 63 million ECUs (about \$71 million) and debt-equity swap around 120 million ECUs (\$140 million), Mr. Bajolet said.

Acknowledging that the U.S., another member of the Paris Club, is offering \$702 million in debt write-off to Jordan, Mr. Bajolet said, however, that "there is nothing that obliges us to imitate the U.S. or anyone else."

"We have economic difficulties and there are definite objective budget limitations to what we could do," he said.

According to the ambassador, the U.S. debt write-off was also contingent on Jordan signing the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel.

"Europe does not have a record of making aid to Jordan contingent on political agreements or peace treaties," Mr. Bajolet said. "That is of course not to downplay our total and complete support for the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and appreciation of Jordan's commitment to peace."

Furthermore, Jordan "belongs to a category of countries which receive intermediate revenue and thus excluded from debt forgiveness," Mr. Bajolet said.

However, the unlikelihood of debt write-off of any substantial amount "does not mean that we would not do anything to help Jordan," added the ambassador. He said the EU stood ready to discuss with "the Jordanian authorities specific projects, including those which have a regional nature," and possibly extend financing with soft terms.

Mr. Bock suggested that it might not be a good idea for Jordan to press for debt forgiveness. "We think the call for debt forgiveness has been

exaggerated," said the German charge d'affaires.

Given the expectations of foreign private sector investments in Jordan after the Kingdom signed peace with Israel, "debt write-offs have the negative side that once any country gets debt write-off, the private sector thinks there is something wrong with the country's economy," Mr. Bock asserted.

The German diplomat cited the example of Poland, which received a more than 50 per cent write-off of its foreign debts three years ago, and noted that foreign investors were reluctant to invest in Poland because of the very perceptions created by the debt forgiveness.

"On the other hand, Jordan is very much justified in its expectations, considering that international interest in any particular country remains focused as long as the country remains within the centre of political focus and tends to fade once the political focus shifts."

Both Ambassador Bajolet and Mr. Bock said the main share of the effort to invite foreign capital to Jordan rested with the Kingdom itself. While European countries would extend help wherever possible, "it is up to Jordan itself to create a climate conducive to foreign investment from the private sector," said Mr. Bajolet.

## King

(Continued from page 1)

has suffered over long years, until a state of just and comprehensive peace is reached to create new conditions which can be enjoyed by all nations of the region and future generations."

Referring to the hitches on the peacemaking between Israel and Syria, Mr. Qasem said these had not progressed "in the manner that had been hoped."

Similar pledges of support were given by Mr. Rawas, the Omani information minister. Oman hosted Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin briefly Dec. 26, even though the sultanate has no formal relations with the Jewish state.

## NPT options

(Continued from page 1)

and the U.S. is pushing to have the treaty renewed indefinitely.

Mr. Abu Odeh said while countries of the North support the U.S. view, the South is considering the options of having the treaty renewed for either a definite period at the end of which it will be reviewed.

He said countries of the South want to have the treaty include provisions which were missed when it was first made. Among these was a prohibition on nuclear tests, commitments against the use of nuclear weapons and permission for the use of nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

News reports quoted an unnamed U.S. official as saying his country is certain it will have the 85 majority vote needed for indefinite extension of the treaty while Third World countries are reportedly worried the U.S. will be able to orchestrate the rules of the voting to achieve its goal.

Article 10 of the treaty stipulates that countries which have signed the treaty are bound by the decision of the majority of the signatories. That would mean Egypt, which has signed the treaty, will be committed to it even if it does not sign it in April.

Israeli press reports said Tuesday that the U.S. has informed Egypt of a possible compromise that would allow it not to sign the treaty but also not to push Arab and Third World countries towards the same course of action.

## Passports

(Continued from page 1)

League."

The official said that even if Jordan recognised and accepted the Palestinian passport it would "be meaningless" unless it was accepted by Arab interior ministers and the international community.

Palestinian officials have said PNA President Yasser Arafat is expected to raise the issue of dual citizenship with King Hussein during their talks.

Palestinians claim that donor countries, including the United States, would accept the Palestinian passport as a "travel document and not as a nationality." But Palestinians argue that a passport still remains a "crucial symbol of nationhood."

The majority of Arab states have held back support for allowing dual Arab citizenship.

According to PNA officials, Mr. Arafat "will try to find a way to allow Palestinians to keep their Jordanian passports and at the same time convince Jordan to recognise the Palestinian passport."

"If Jordan accepts the concept of a Palestinian passport, in addition to the Jordanian one, it will show practical support for the Palestinians," said one Palestinian official.

But a Jordanian official has said that Amman had three prerequisites that must be met before it would discuss the future relationship between Jordan and Palestinians as well as deciding who is a Palestinian and who is a Jordanian.

The source said that a full Israeli withdrawal, Palestinian self-determination and most importantly a solution to the refugee problem would have to be achieved before the issues of future relations and passports could be settled.

More than a million Palestinians in the West Bank hold two-year Jordanian passports granting Jordanian citizenship.

The Kingdom has also granted Jordanian passports that act as travel documents to over 100,000 Gazans.

## Accords seen to signal well-founded relationship

(Continued from page 1)

ship prior to an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinian peoples' attainment of their right to self-determination and particularly a solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees.

The Palestinian-Israeli agreement, signed in 1993, does not define the future of the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories as final status negotiations were put off to a later stage.

The Palestinians, however, had been seeking to reach a clearly defined framework with Jordan based on future confederal relations. The Palestinians were hoping that such an agreement will enhance their quest for sovereignty in their negotiations with Israel, and will make the idea of an independent state more acceptable to the U.S. and Israel.

The agreement drafted this week responds partly to Palestinian objectives as it includes an unequivocal Jordanian support for the aspired Palestinian goal for a negotiated settlement with Israel, i.e. an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Both Jordanian and Palestinian officials expressed satisfaction with the terms of the agreement. Palestinian officials hope that the agreement will lessen the dependence of the autonomous areas and the occupied West Bank on Israel.

## Arafat arrives here today

(Continued from page 1)

He said the memorandum, which is based on mutual acceptance and support for each others' negotiations and agreements with Israel, does not in any way contradict the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles or the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israeli peace treaty.

The accord contains a Jordanian commitment to support the implementation of the declaration of principles and the Palestinian quest for an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. This is reciprocated by Palestinian support of the Jordanian-Israeli peace accord.

Analysts and officials said Jordan and the PLO-led Palestine National Authority (PNA) need each other's backing in order to improve their positions in negotiations with Israel as well as their standing in the Arab World.

This rapprochement came after the two sides reached an understanding over the question of Jordan's role in the Islamic shrines in Arab East Jerusalem based on the Kingdom's support for sovereignty over the Holy City as part of the Kingdom's territories Israel occupied in 1967.

"The Palestinian acceptance of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty practically

on Israel. The need for closer cooperation and even integration with Jordan was reinforced by Israel's constant closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a reprisal for Palestinian attacks.

"With or without the Israeli closures, integration with Jordan is crucial for the Palestinian struggle for independence," Ahmad Qouriea, the Palestinian official who reached the agreements with Israel, told the Jordan Times on Tuesday.

Previous efforts to reach a cooperation agreement between Jordan and the Palestinians foundered as Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat refrained from signing any agreements at the last minute.

Mr. Arafat was afraid, according to Palestinian officials, that an agreement with Jordan would limit his manoeuvrability with Israel, especially that Israel was refusing to accept Palestinian sovereignty and Jordan was not ready to commit itself to a confederation between two independent states.

The Palestinian leader, it seems, was also more confident of international political and financial support and of Israel's commitment to implement the self-rule agreement.

But as international aid did not flow in as Mr. Arafat had anticipated, and the constant delay in the implementation of the self-rule agreement

coupled with the paramount task of reconstructing a devastated economy and a strong internal opposition, Mr. Arafat returned to Jordan.

Many PNA officials had been pressing Mr. Arafat to reach agreements with Jordan and deepen the relations with the Kingdom and increase his manoeuvrability with Israel.

Chances for a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement narrowed when Israel recognised Jordan's role in the Muslim holy sites in east Jerusalem as part of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty.

But even Palestinian critics of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, who felt that the step could jeopardise Palestinian claims for sovereignty over East Jerusalem, prodded Mr. Arafat not to escalate tension with Jordan and to seek to talk it over with Amman, especially that Israel was benefiting from the ensuing dispute.

The preamble of the accord indicates that the PNA had realised that it would be extremely difficult to build institutions, especially in a place where expertise is scarce, without Jordan's help.

The agreement involves a commitment by Jordan to help the PNA build various national institutions — a prerequisite for Palestinian nation-building.

Jordan on its turn, was always pressing for agree-

ments with the PLO, but seemed less keen if not almost disinterested after signing its own treaty with Israel last October — particularly that it was left down many times by Mr. Arafat.

But things have since then changed. The Jordanian-Israeli treaty proved not to be enough to cause an aspired economic boom, while the Amman Financial Market showed great sensitivity to the deterioration of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

News reports on Tuesday indicated that the Amman Financial Market immediately picked up at the news of progress towards reaching an economic agreement between Jordan and the Palestinians.

Jordan, as officials say, felt that its problem with the PLO over Jerusalem was adversely affecting its relations with the other Arab states.

Both sides decided to ease the tension by avoiding to discuss the issue of Jordan's role in the holy sites at a recent meeting for the Jerusalem Committee in the Moroccan city of Ifran (see separate story).

The Jordanian and Palestinian opposition to the peace agreements with Israel had been calling for joint Jordanian-Palestinian action but are expected to oppose the new accords since they are partly based on the same very agreements the opposition rejects.

"Jordanian support for the agreement mentioned in the memorandum is very important for him," said the official.

Palestinians realise that if they do not enter agreements with Jordan, the Kingdom can export goods to those areas in the West Bank that are not yet under PNA rule under a Jordan-Israeli economic protocol.

Jordan is also keen to see the Palestinian-Israeli agreement succeed to ensure the comprehensive nature of the solution and avoid being the only Arab country of the Madrid conference parties negotiating with Israel to have made peace with the Jewish state as Egypt did in 1979.

"Arab-Israeli peace cannot be complete without a settlement to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict," Foreign Minister Kabariti told journalists.

Mr. Arafat's visit is seen as another step in the government's pledge to clear the Arab atmosphere. His visit was preceded by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit to Aqaba last Saturday and a visit by the King to Oman.

## Israel plans 'security border'

(Continued from page 1)

Among those detained was Sheikh Jamal Mansour, a leading Hamas figure in the West Bank town of Nablus, the reports said.

Soldiers also searched and ransacked the Ali Ben Abi Taleb Mosque in the West Bank town of Al Birah. At the mosque, several copies of the Koran lay scattered on the floor.

## France vows to reassert role

(Continued from page 12)

Jordan-Israel peace treaty, he said.

In the Israel-PLO context, the EU fully supported the Palestinian rejection of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and also backed the Palestinian right to self-determination in return for the rights of every country, including Israel, to live in peace within secure borders.

"We deem the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as illegal," he said. "Our stand is clearly known to Israel, and we consistently remind the Israelis of our

positions (that are indeed a key point in our relationship)."

Mr. Bajolet said "the basic principles" that the EU believes as the pillars of any just peace in the region also include "the restitution of all occupied territories, refusal to accept faits accomplis in Jerusalem and denunciation of terrorism."

"We condemn the recent bomb attack that claimed innocent lives in Israel," he said referring to Sunday's suicide explosions in Netanya. Asked whether such attacks would have any bearing on EU assistance and

support for the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza and Jericho, Mr. Bajolet said: "Our commitment to help the Palestinian territories is firm and solid and extremist attacks do not have any bearing on our commitment."

Mr. Bajolet said the European Union, which has committed 500 million European Currency Units (ECUs), or about \$570 million, at a rate of 100 million ECUs (\$114 million) every year for five years, as aid to the Palestinians, had already allocated 85 million ECUs (\$96 million) to the territories.







## Business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

### Banker sees no quick recovery at AFM

★ The Arab Banking Corporation (Jordan) General Manager Jawad Hadid does not expect a quick recovery at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) as many of the reasons behind the slowdown are still there. According to Mr. Hadid, lifting of the sanctions on Iraq and the resumption of exports to the Kingdom's eastern neighbour could revive the stock exchange. However, he noted, the rise in interest rates and the banks' switching more to lending than investing in shares and stocks were key factors weighing negatively on the activity at the stock exchange (Al Dustour).

★ According to Central Bank Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi, Jordan's exports increased by about 16 per cent in 1994 and, as such, there should be no complaints of the dinar exchange rate being a hindrance to exports (Al Dastour).

★ Palestinians have asked Jordan to help market Gaza citrus as prices there have fallen to JD 40 per tonne or 40 fils a kilogramme (Al Dastour).

★ Under an agreement signed between Palestinian and Jordanian officials, Royal Jordanian will carry all the mail from Gaza and the West Bank to world countries. Delivery of the mail will take place at the King Hussein Bridge. Another agreement allows Palestinian trucks and buses to enter Jordan and transit through to other Arab countries (Al Aswaq).

★ Manufacturers of school uniforms were turned away disappointed by the Ministry of Supply after they rushed to it seeking higher prices claiming higher cost of textile imports and double taxation from the implementation of the sales tax. Failing to justify higher costs and after hearing a convincing explanation on the tax issue from officials at the ministry, the manufacturers settled to keep the price of school uniforms unchanged (Al Ra'i).

★ Workers at the Jordan Electric Power Co. are demanding higher pay and other fringe benefits such as the continuation of the discounts on the electricity bill of their homes and payment of allowances for carrying out risky work (Al Ra'i).

★ Taxpayers who pay their 1994 income tax before the end of this month are entitled to a six per cent discount. Even making an advance payment can be considered for the discount on condition that the necessary forms be presented before April 1995 (Al Ra'i).

★ Studies have been prepared to revive the Hijaz railway scheme to connect the Kingdom with all neighbouring countries and have Jordan as a centre for trains leaving for Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Israel. The studies also aim at turning the Hijaz railway into a tourist attraction. The railway would stretch from Amman to Jizah, in the short-term, and from the north of Jordan to the south, passing through Al Azraq, Qasr Al Mashra, Qatranah and most of the tourist sites. According to Burhan Shreideh, director general of the Hijaz Railway Corporation, Jordan's main aim at present is to connect the Kingdom by rail with Arab Gulf countries. Dr. Shreideh said it would be a major achievement if Amman-Jerash-Rum and Petra were to be linked by a railway. As for connecting various parts of the capital with a railway service, he said that studies were being finalised in that direction, noting that such a project would cost about JD 120 million (Al Ra'i).

## Dubai's aluminium firm to raise capacity, seeks \$250m loan

DUBAI (R) — Dubai's aluminium company Dubai said it will raise output capacity 52 per cent to 372,600 tonnes per year by 1997 in a \$500 million project partly funded with a loan underwritten by Merrill Lynch, the company said.

The Dubai statement sent to Reuters said Dubai, which has a current production capacity of 245,000 tonnes per year, would finance the other 50 per cent of the total costs of the project.

Local and foreign banks would participate in the syndicated \$250 million five-year loan, which Merrill Lynch would also arrange, the statement said.

Dubai declined in early 1994 to join efforts by other world aluminium producers, including Bahrain's Alba, to restrain output to boost what were at that time sagging prices.

Prices have since recovered, moving to a 5-1/4 year high of \$2,170 in London on Friday from \$1,230 in January 1994.

Dubai said at the time that it had already committed to selling all of its 1994 output. Dubai, owned by the Dubai government, produced 242,264 tonnes of primary metal in 1993.

Dubai said the project involves construction of a fifth portline with a total capacity of 127,600 tonnes per year. It includes installing two gas turbines each with 110 megawatt capacity to meet expanded electricity needs, the statement said.

Dubai will also construct a second green anode production line, kiln line, casting machine, a casting pit and other technology designed and developed by Comalco of Australia and Dubai.

## Crisis looms over spiralling paper prices

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A crisis seems to be looming for school notebooks in Jordan as international prices of paper are going up and local booksellers accuse local manufacturers of trying to raise their prices without government approval.

The Ministry of Supply, which determines prices of notebooks, said it had heard of the problem but had not been approached by any manufacturers with a formal request to raise prices.

Manufacturers assert they are no longer able to produce and market notebooks at the prices set by the Ministry of Supply because raw material costs have gone up dramatically in the last six months.

If the situation remains unaddressed, they say, they will be forced to stop production if only to avert losses.

Caught in-between are parents and schoolchildren who, more often than not in the past month, had to pay prices higher than those set by the ministry.

Bookshops say many of them are selling notebooks with no profit at all because of the need to stock the books if only to attract customers who might also be buying something else from the shops.

The only consensus among all is that prices for paper went up by 50 per cent to 80 per cent, particularly Brazilian paper which is widely used to make school workbooks, in the second half of 1994.

Awmi Adel Yousef, general manager of Al Hail Company, one of the leading manufacturers in Jordan, said his company was unable to make any profits.

"But we are keeping up our production and marketing

our products at the prices set by the government," said Mr. Yousef. "We operate by the philosophy that sometimes you lose, sometimes you gain."

According to Mr. Yousef, whose company buys papers from Brazil, a tonne of paper now costs nearly \$800 compared with \$600 six months ago, but there has been no rise in local prices.

Al Hail, which produces ruled 32 page and 64-page notebooks, sells the products at the set prices of 55 fils and 92 fils respectively, Mr. Yousef insisted.

However, "this situation cannot continue any longer since we are unable to absorb any more losses," Mr. Yousef told the Jordan Times.

Al Hail may be an exception to the rule, but several booksellers said manufacturers were insisting on the retail prices printed on the books as

their wholesale price.

A bookseller cited an example. He said that the price set by the ministry for a ruled workbook of 80 pages was 115 fils, but the distributors of the book were insisting that the retailer buys the book at this price.

"This would mean we, the booksellers, selling the books either at 115 fils or at a higher price and risk being penalised by the Ministry of Supply," said the bookseller, who did not want to be identified.

"Many of us prefer not to make any profit and remain within the confines of the law, hoping that the very availability of the books with us will attract customers who might buy something else where we can make some profit," he added.

Abdullah Al Geeth, head of the Department of Studies at the Ministry of Supply, said: "There has been no decision to raise the prices of notebooks and the issue is

not under study."

The ministry will be ready to discuss the issue "if the manufacturers go through the proper channel and produce their purchase invoices and customs papers to prove their case," the official told the Jordan Times.

"We can then conduct proper studies and review the case for higher prices, but until a formal approach is made nothing can be done in the paper," he said.

In the meantime, parents who wanted notebooks for their children after the recent holiday say that some booksellers were demanding higher prices.

"If you look like a customer who might pay a higher price, they (the booksellers) say they have the books but at a price more than set by the ministry," said one parent. "If they think you might make an argument, then they say they do not have the books at all."

## Arms makers eye Middle East market at major defence show

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Major arms manufacturers will vie for a greater share of the growing Middle East military market when they display their latest defence wares at an international show here in March.

Firms from the United States, Britain, France, Russia and South Africa will make up more than half of about 510 companies due to take part in the March 19-23 ground weapons show in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), organisers said.

The five countries and other participants will also display frigates, destroyers and other vessels at the neighbouring Abu Dhabi Port Yared but it was not clear if they would include submarines.

"The show will be an important opportunity for regional countries to see the latest in military industries and for producers to promote their hardware," said an official from the organising committee. "There is no doubt it will include deals but not all of them would be announced."

The UAE armed forces are staging the show in Abu Dhabi, the second in two years. It covers only vessels and ground weapons, including tanks, as an international air show is held every two years

in nearby Dubai.

The show comes as the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other regional states pressed ahead with plans to bolster their defence capabilities following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and Iran's armament plans including the acquisition of Russian submarines, the first to be bought by a regional country.

Western nations and their Arab allies have voiced concern at Iran's growing power and its belligerent statements, criticising the allied naval presence in the Gulf and its island dispute with the UAE.

During a Gulf tour last week, British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said Iran's purchase of the Kilo-class submarines could destabilise the oil-rich region but he urged Tehran not to use them against its neighbours.

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has become one of the biggest arms buyers, spending more than \$50 billion on defence after the invasion of Kuwait and plans to spend billions more by 2000.

They have focused on advanced weapons to offset a troop shortage due to their relatively small native populations.

## Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Date: 23/1/95	Tokyo Date: 24/1/95
Sterling Pound	1.5840	1.5952**
Deutsche Mark	1.5145	1.5137
Swiss Franc	1.2703	1.2717**
French Franc	5.2425	5.2400**
Japanese Yen	99.81	99.75
European Currency Unit	1.2493	1.2497**

\* USD Per ECU  
\*\* European Opening @ 9:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Bid rates for American currency U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Branches Interest Rates Date: 24/1/1995

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.75	6.06	6.50	7.00
Sterling Pound	5.93	6.31	6.75	7.37
Deutsche Mark	4.68	4.81	5.06	5.56
Swiss Franc	3.62	3.81	4.06	4.37
French Franc	5.37	5.67	6.06	6.62
Japanese Yen	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.25
European Currency Unit	5.75	6.06	6.40	7.00

Previous Metals Date: 24/1/1995

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	381.65	7.65	Silver	4.82	0.177

\* 100 Grams

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 24/1/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6980
Sterling Pound	1.1097	1.1152
Deutsche Mark	0.4594	0.4617
Swiss Franc	0.5474	0.5501
French Franc	0.1327	0.1354
Japanese Yen	0.6974	0.7009
Dutch Guilder	0.4097	0.4117
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0439	0.0441
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

\* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 24/1/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8304	1.8430
Lebanese Lira	0.041125	0.042370
Saudi Riyal	0.1850	0.1863
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3170	2.3680
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1913
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2130
Omani Riyal	1.7090	1.8100
UAE Dirham	0.1889	0.1898
Greek Drachma	0.2908	0.3220
Cypriot Pound	1.4410	1.5500

\* Per 100

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.4162/72	1.5058/08
1.5058/08	1.6932/42
1.6932/42	1.2670/80
1.2670/80	31.13/17
31.13/17	5.2258/08
5.2258/08	1584.8/5.8
1584.8/5.8	99.48/58
99.48/58	7.4250/50
7.4250/50	6.6040/90
6.6040/90	5.9550/00
5.9550/00	\$1.5994/04
\$1.5994/04	One sterling
One sterling	One ounce of gold
One ounce of gold	\$381.20/381.60

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# Karolyi's gymnasts work out for 45 hours a week

PORTLAND (AP) — One is among the greatest and most graceful Olympic gymnasts of all time. The other is a bright-eyed 13-year-old who could be the sports next pitie superstar.

Side by side, with Bela Karolyi as their coach, Svetlana Boguinskaia and Dominique Moceanu are working toward a shared goal, the Atlanta Games of 1996.

Moceanu is 1.32-metre tall (4-foot-4) and weighs 31 kilograms (68 pounds). She turned 13 last September but looks nowhere near that old. When she's competing, she seems to fly, and in just the three months she's worked with Boguinskaia, she's picked up some of the great Olympian's grace and style.

"I love to watch her," Moceanu said. "She's so pretty on her style and so beautiful. She's really good. I look up to her and copy all of her things."

The two were in Portland to compete at the Reese's International Gymnastic Cup, a relaxed event in which gymnasts compete in costumes to music.

Moceanu won the bars with a 9.75, was second on the balance beam at 9.55 and fourth in the floor exercise at 9.65. Boguinskaia, in the first real competition in 2½ years, won the balance beam at 9.80 and was second in the floor exercise at 9.75.

Moceanu already has picked up some of Boguinskaia's traits, such dramatic turns of the head in the floor exercise.

"It's a great influence for the young ones," Karolyi said, "especially for Dominique, who needs exactly what Svetlana offers, expression, the grace, the confidence."

Karolyi calls Moceanu "one of the most talented girls I've had in years."

"Most importantly, she's dynamic, outgoing little thing like Mary Lou used to be," he said. "She's laughing. She's crying. She's jumping. She's rolling. She's doing whatever is on her mind. I love to work with her."

Boguinskaia looks at Moceanu and remembers herself at that age, before she went on to win Olympic gold medals in 1988 and 1992

and World Championship golds in 1989 and 1991.

"I'm having so much fun, because she's little and I'm so much older," Boguinskaia said. "She can see my experience, but I can see how she's a young girl and she's really talented. The next Olympics she will be almost 15 and that's good age. I don't want to tell. But I think she can win easily."

Boguinskaia's English is remarkably good considering she didn't speak it at all until she moved from her native mink to the United States to work as a coach a year ago. She found she missed the competition, especially as she watched the World Championships last year in Brisbane, Australia.

"I was thinking, 'I was competing with the same girls but they're still doing gymnastic and I'm not,'" she said. "I had tears in my eyes because I thought, 'oh, I can do it'."

Although she turns 22 Feb. 9, ancient by the standards of women's gymnastics, she wanted to try for another Olympics.

She approached Karolyi, whom she knew slightly but had not spoken with in earlier years because of the intense rivalry of the teams. He had some apprehensions.

"I really was afraid that she might be a negative influence over the other ones," he said. "But I tell you, she is the hardest-working, most dedicated person, listening like the young ones. She never says no, never turns her back, never goes off. She's an enjoyable, lovely person to work with."

Karolyi's gymnasts work out for 7½ hours a day, six days a week at his club in Houston. And he's confident Boguinskaia will compete for her native Belarus at Atlanta, making her the first women's gymnast to participate in three Olympics.

"That would be such an outstanding record," Karolyi said. "I never managed to do it with Nadia. I never managed to do it with Mary Lou."

Nobody's talking about another gold. "But she will give some young girls a run for their money," Karolyi said. "That is for sure."

# World's top sprinter dashes away from earthquakes

NEW YORK (AP) — Dennis Mitchell is the world's No. 1 sprinter — and he's also becoming an expert on earthquakes.

While the two don't necessarily go together, in Mitchell's case they do.

A year ago, he was in California during the terrible quake that rocked the Northridge area, near Los Angeles, where his coach, John Smith, lives. A week ago, he was in Japan during the devastating quake that rattled the Kobe area, resulting in more than 5,000 deaths.

The two quakes were hardly comparable, Mitchell said. "That was a little kitty earthquake in Los Angeles," he said Monday via a telephone conference call at the Metropolitan Track writers luncheon. "The one in Japan was 10 times worse. It lasted for about 40 seconds; it felt like about 40 minutes."

At the time of last week's quake, Mitchell was on a business trip in Osaka, only 22 miles (35-km) east of Kobe. When it struck about 5:30 a.m., Mitchell was sleeping in his hotel room.

"After it stopped, the building was moving for about another 30 to 40 seconds," Mitchell said. "People were in shock."

Mitchell, who was on the 16th floor, quickly went to the room of his business manager, Charley Wells, a former sprinter, and said they had to leave the hotel immediately. He also tried to assist other frightened hotel guests in leaving.

As he, Wells and the others attempted to escape via an emergency exit, they found the door locked. "We had to read the directions before we could open it and get to the steps," Mitchell said.

Once at the steps, Mitchell hoped to use his sprinting ability.

"I wanted to get out of there in 16 seconds — one floor a second," he said. "I was about the only one there who had experience on earthquakes. I was telling them what to do. We had to keep moving, but the pace was slow, because the people were in shock."

Fortunately, no one in the hotel was hurt, Mitchell said, except for those in shock.

Mitchell left Japan to return to the United States about 12 hours after the quake.

"I felt I shouldn't have left so quickly because there was so much devastation," he said. "The country's done so much for me, I should have stayed there in time of need."

After these two horrifying experiences, it would appear to be unsafe to travel with Mitchell. He doesn't agree.

"It's good to travel with me," he said. "I've survived."

"When something like this happens, I know what to do."

Mitchell also knows what to do on the track.

He has won two world championship bronze medals and one Olympic bronze medal in the 100-metre dash. He has run the third leg on the two U.S. teams that share the world record of 37.40 seconds for the 400-metre relay. He ran on two other teams that set the relay record previously. And he has twice won the national 100-metre championship, including last year, a victory that helped him gain the No. 1 ranking in a controversial choice over Britain's Linford Christie, the European and Commonwealth Games champion.

"I couldn't get into the European Championships or the Commonwealth Games," Mitchell said. "In the middle of the season, I was on fire. I was running 9.9s on the track every meet, and Christie was nowhere to be found."

When the two did meet, they split six races.

Mitchell will open his season Feb. 3 in the 60-metre dash at the Millrose Games.

# In the NBA these days, bad attitude seems the norm

The Associated Press

Sure, the majority of players show up for work, listen to their coaches and play hard. But the top-caliber players among that group are wondering why some of their colleagues can't do the same.

"To me, it's wild," said Indiana's Reggie Miller. "I'm from the old school where players play and coaches coach. You hear of so many conflicts between coaches and players, people not showing up for practice, people not wanting to go in games. That's wild, no matter what the circumstances."

"I know you wouldn't want to be working 9-to-5 at IBM. This is two hours of supposedly what you love to do. Players don't appreciate what we get."

Last season, as incidents of taunting and fighting increased, the NBA wasted no time stiffening penalties for such behaviour, and as a result fighting has been practically non-existent this season. But attitude isn't so easily legislated.

Magic Johnson ended a 10-game trial run as the Los Angeles Lakers' coach last season by deciding he wanted no part of coaching. At the time, he blasted his players for a lack of discipline and effort. Now a minority owner of the team, he declined comment through his agent, Lon Rosen.

Denver's Dan Issel quit as coach this month, emotionally spent from trying to coax consistent effort out of a young and talented team. Johnson played in the 1980s, Issel in the '70s, but both had trouble relating their playing experience to today's crop of millionaire youngsters.

"It's tougher to coach today, because the salaries are astronomical, and the notori-

ety that comes from the endorsement packages makes it harder to reinforce values," said Atlanta Hawks coach Lenny Wilkens.

Just as former pros like Johnson, Issel and Karl find themselves unable to motivate what Indiana coach Larry Brown calls "the MTV crowd," league veterans blame the huge, long-term contracts their younger teammates sign as rookies for creating an untenable situation.

National Basketball Association results and standings after Monday's games.

L.A. Lakers 108, Charlotte 102  
Cleveland 90, L.A. Clippers 68  
Utah 116, Dallas 111

Eastern Conference					
Atlantic Division		W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	32	8	.800	—	
New York	24	13	.649	6½	
Boston	15	24	.385	16½	
New Jersey	15	24	.366	17½	
Miami	12	26	.316	19	
Philadelphia	12	26	.316	19	
Washington	10	27	.270	20½	
Central Division		W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	25	14	.641	—	
Charlotte	24	15	.615	1½	
Indiana	23	15	.605	1½	
Chicago	20	19	.513	5	
Atlanta	17	22	.436	8	
Milwaukee	15	23	.395	9½	
Detroit	11	25	.306	12½	
Western Conference		W	L	Pct.	GB
Midwest Division		W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	29	10	.744	—	
Houston	23	14	.622	5	
San Antonio	22	14	.611	5½	
Denver	18	20	.474	10½	
Dallas	16	21	.432	12	
Minnesota	9	29	.237	19½	
Pacific Division		W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	30	8	.789	—	
Seattle	27	9	.750	2	
L.A. Lakers	24	13	.649	5½	
Sacramento	22	16	.579	8	
Portland	20	17	.541	9½	
Golden State	11	24	.314	17½	
L.A. Clippers	6	34	.150	25	

# Racers start world's southernmost road race

MCMURDO STATION, Antarctica (AP) — With sunning seals among the spectators, some 200 runners left the starting line in 24-hour summer sunlight for the 4.5-mile (7.2-kilometre) Scott's Hut race, the world's southernmost road race.

Bagpiper John Wright, an American construction engineer, signalled the start for the runners, joggers and walkers with a ceremonial Scottish tune. Temperatures were around freezing — balmy weather for McMurdo.

Their dash began in downtown McMurdo, the biggest base in Antarctica, in front of the Chapel of the Snows. The Scott's Hut race is the premier sporting event in this American community of some 1,200 scientists and civilian and military support staff in summer. About 250 spend winter at the base.

About 50 of the runners take it seriously, and at the first landmark and checkpoint, Capt. Robert Scott's "discovery" hut about a half-mile from the start, the first two men clocked in at about 2 and one-half minutes.

Weddell seals, lazily sunning themselves on the sea ice about 50 yards (metres) away, barely bothered to turn their heads to glance at the spectacle.

Scott's discovery hut was named for his ship on his first major British Antarctic expedition, in 1901-04. Scott built the hut that stands freeze-dried in perpetuity on the edge of McMurdo in January 1902, using it mainly as a storehouse.

Biscuits, dried meat and other provisions are still stacked in the hut from polar expeditions launched earlier this century, preserved and edible.

After looping around the Scott's Hut checkpoint, the runners dashed over the volcanic gravel cinder roads through McMurdo and out of town toward Scott Base, the New Zealand research station about 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometres) away, turned back at the edge of McMurdo, ran back to Scott's Hut, and retraced their steps to the start-finish line.

Many competitors walked the course, a pace good enough to qualify them for the T-shirt awarded to all competitors.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Indomitable Lions go hungry

HARARE (AFP) — Cameroon's national football squad, thrashed 4-1 by Zimbabwe in an African Cup Nations qualifier at the weekend, are stranded in Harare without money for food, officials said Tuesday. Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) interim secretary-general Phil Hwata said the Cameroon team had no money to feed themselves until their intended departure on Friday. Under the Confederation of African Football (CAF) rules, the hosts provide food and accommodation for the visitors for five days. Cameroon arrived last Thursday and Tuesday was the last day on which ZIFA was obliged to feed them. "We have advised CAF of the plight of the Cameroonians but the continental body has not been helpful," Hwata said. "We have been advised that the visitors should fend for themselves for the extra days they are staying in Zimbabwe and we do not know what to do with them."

### Becker back for Germany

BONN (AFP) — Boris Becker ended a week of suspense when he said Tuesday he would play for Germany in their Davis Cup which against Croatia next week. The triple Wimbledon champion denied in a statement the existence of a contract with the German federation worth 3.1 million marks (\$2.07 million) forcing him to turn out for his national team. Becker, a first round loser in the Australian Open, has not played for Germany for three years after helping them win the Cup in successive years in 1988-89. Germany play Goran Ivanisevic's Croatia at Karlsruhe on Feb. 3-5.

### Milla's Cameroon club claims transfer fee

YAOUNDE (R) — Cameroon World Cup soccer hero Roger Milla's former club have accused him of cheating them out of a transfer fee when he left for Indonesian side Pelita Jaya. "Roger Milla deceived us," Essomba Eyenga, Tonnerre Kalara Club de Yaounde's administrative and financial director said. Cameroon soccer officials said Milla told Tonnerre he was going to Indonesia as a coach, not as a player and obtained a release letter to that effect. Milla, 42, who was brought out of retirement to play for Cameroon in the 1994 World Cup, made his second spectacular football comeback last month when he joined Jakarta Club Pelita Jaya and scored three goals in his first match.

### IAAF move to protect Africans from disease

NAIROBI (R) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) plans to devote some of its annual development budget to educating African athletes about the danger of infectious diseases. Speaking at the end of a one-week regional course on sports medicine, Bjorn Wangermann from the IAAF's development department said a large amount of the department's budget would be devoted towards developing athletics in Africa and campaigning against disease. He did not specify how much money would be spent. He said Africa was still most vulnerable to some infectious diseases such as bilharzia, trypanosomiasis, malaria, tuberculosis, hepatitis and AIDS.

### Albert out for rest of season

BRUSSELS (R) — Newcastle's Belgian international defender Philippe Albert will be out for the rest of the season following a successful operation on a serious knee injury sustained in training last month. "The operation was successful," Albert was quoted as saying in the Belgian daily Het Nieuwsblad on Tuesday. "Anyway, the season is over for me so I can work quietly on my recovery." After half a year I should be virtually fit to play. Just in time for the new season," the 27-year-old World Cup player added. Albert, operated on in Cambridge, England, said he would stay in hospital for five days.



French rally champion Didier Auriol in his Toyota Celica at the 63rd Monte Carlo Rally (AFP photo)

# Delecour storms into lead in Monte Carlo

MONACO (AFP) — Frenchman Francois Delecour took the lead of the Monte Carlo rally here Tuesday after a sustained burst of attacking. Driving a Ford Escort, he clawed back Carlos Sainz's 44sec overnight advantage by the end of the ninth stage to edge two seconds ahead. Delecour did most of the damage on the second stage of the day when he took back an astonishing 39secs off the Spaniard's Subaru Impreza.

Even Tommi Makinen, in third overall, lost 23secs in his Mitsubishi Lancer as the Frenchman hurtled through stage eight.

German Armin Schwarz's hopes evaporated when he lost over seven minutes on stage seven when the suspension of his Toyota failed.

Leading standings

1. Francois Delecour (France) Ford Escort
2. Carlos Sainz (Spain) Subaru Impreza
3. Tommi Makinen (Finland) Mitsubishi Lancer
4. Juha Kankkunen (Finland) Toyota Celica
5. Piero Liatti (Italy) Subaru Impreza
6. Didier Auriol (France) Toyota Celica
7. Colin McRae (Scotland) Subaru Impreza
8. Bruno Thiry (Belgium) Ford Escort
9. Andrea Aghini (Italy) Mitsubishi Lancer
10. Philippe Bugalski (France) Renault Clio reuter

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAYANAH HURCH  
Hosts: Omar Sharif & Tayannah Hurch

A 'DECLARER REVERSAL'

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH: ♠ A 5 4 2, ♥ 2, ♦ K Q 7 3, ♣ A K J

EAST: ♠ 10 9 8, ♥ K J 7 3, ♦ 10 4, ♣ 10 7 4 2

WEST: ♠ 8 3, ♥ 9 8 6, ♦ 9 8 3, ♣ 10 7 4 2

SOUTH: ♠ A 10 6 4, ♥ A 2, ♦ A 9 8, ♣ 10 7 4 2

The bidding: South West North East  
1NT Pass 2 Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠

The term "dummy reversal" simply means you take your ruffs in the long trump hand, using the holding with the shorter trumps to draw the opponents' trumps. With the proliferation of transfer bids, declarer is often the hand with fewer trumps. Here's an example of what could be termed a "declarer reversal."

After first making a transfer bid, North described a spade diamond two-suiter, possibly with slam interest.

West led a trump and declarer could count 12 tricks. There were two possible lines to develop a 13th trick. One was to draw three rounds of trumps, then play off three top diamonds. If the diamonds broke 3-3, all was well; or if the declarer with the third trump also held diamond length, declarer would be able to ruff a diamond for the fulfilling trick. The other is to use the long-trump hand, in this case dummy, to ruff hearts while declarer's spades serve to draw the enemy's trumps. That depends only on a 3-2 trump split and East not being able to overruff the third round of hearts.

Obviously, the latter plan is considerably better. So win the ace of trumps, cash the ace of hearts and ruff a heart. Come to hand with a trump to make sure they divide 3-2 and ruff another heart. The ace of diamonds and queen of clubs are the entries to ruff a third heart with the outstanding trump, on which one of dummy's low diamonds is discarded. With nine tricks in the bank, dummy's king-queens of diamonds and ace-king of clubs take the last four.

Cinema	PHILADELPHIA	Cinema	PLAZA	Cinema	CONCORD	Cinema	AMMOUN THEATRE	Cinema	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	Cinema	Nabil & Hisham's
Tel:	634144	Tel:	699238	Tel:	677420	Tel:	618274 - 618275	Tel:	675571	Tel:	625155
PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		Nabil & Hisham's	
Jim Carrey in		Najla Fathi & Farouq Al Fishawi - in		CONCORD "1"		SUM'A in the satirical play		Presents		Presents	
THE MASK		Arabic		THE SPECIALIST		HI CITIZEN		Abu Awwad		The political satire:	
Shows: 12.30, 3.30, 6.15, 8.30, 10.30		Shows: 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30		Shows: 12.30, 3.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30		Composed and directed by		In the social comedy		AL SALAM YA SALAM	
		The movie: The Lion King will be shown at 5 p.m. every evening as well as extra shows on Fridays and Thursdays at 10.30		CONCORD "2"		Mohammad Al Shawadiah		Punctured Bag		at 8.30 p.m.	
				Harrison Ford & Whitney Houston -		Daily from 8 p.m.		The theatre is closed on Mondays		For reservation, please call 625155	
				THE BODYGUARD		Children's Play		Tickets are available all day		The theatre is closed on Saturdays & Sundays	
				Shows: 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31		The Ninja Turtles Show					
						Directed by Aaron Abul Ragheb					
						Daily at 10.30 p.m.					

**Sports**

**Rice co if 49ers v**

last: "I'm almost ready to make San Francisco root against their receiver Jerry Rice. He may retire if he beats San Diego in the Super Bowl. I can assure you I'll be there to put off that Chargers coach Bob Schottenheim with a smile. I'll open the door early exit when I'm asked a question at the possibility of re-

might be some- think about." Rice if I think the fire is gone, it's time to walk away from the

ers believe Rice plenty of fire — and plenty of Football League remaining. George Seifert, for whom his peren-

the first time I've mentioned it, I'd be glad if that's what he

Health isn't an issue. He

**World Alpine coaches and to prepare**

PRIMA D'AMPEZZO, (AP) — With only a few days to go to the World Ski Championships in Sierra Nevada, coaches and athletes are struggling to prepare for races still uncertain because of warm weather. It has been an extremely dry season for Sierra Nevada. Europe's most southern resort, with rain rather than snow falling over the weekend. Temperatures have even been cold enough to make the needed artificial

isn't looking right now, the thing I'm concerned about is the safety — there is much snow and outside course there are only a few slides into," said the world downhill

tion. "I'm not sure if a decision on whether to hold the races several days ago already putting the many of which plan- into a holding pattern. The International Ski Federation (FIS) said it would suspend its final verdict on a 24-hour only three days before the opening ceremonies are to be held.

The U.S. team's head coach, Herb Demichiel, is already on his way to Sierra Nevada to see for himself. Coaches are also worried about what to do with their athletes when they arrive in Spain and have no prepared place to train on.

Some athletes, such as two-time Olympic champion De- campeon of Italy, are forced to return home in between the differ- events that are spread over a two week period. "I'll decide if it is possible to keep them in Spain until the 27th," said

the American women out the decision passing up a three day stay at the beach on Spain's coast.

Spain's Katja Seizinger lead the World Cup standings said she only think about the



## ays, e norn

### Jerry Rice considers retirement if 49ers win Super Bowl

MIAMI (AP) — It's almost enough to make San Francisco fans root against their team.

All-pro receiver Jerry Rice says he may retire if the 49ers beat San Diego in Sunday's Super Bowl.

"I'd like to put off that retirement, I can assure you," Chargers coach Bobby Ross said with a smile.

Rice, 32, opened the door to an early exit when he answered a question at a news conference Monday about the possibility of retirement.

"That might be something to think about," Rice said. "If I think the fire is still inside, I'll continue to play. If it's gone, it's time to walk away from the game."

The 49ers believe Rice has plenty of fire — and National Football League seasons — remaining. Coach George Seifert, for one, doubts that his perennial pro bowl receiver will quit.

"That's the first time I've heard any mention of that," Seifert said. "I'd be surprised if that's what he did."

Health isn't an issue. He last missed a game in 1987.

"I feel like a youngster," he said. "If anything, I'm in better shape than when I first came in."

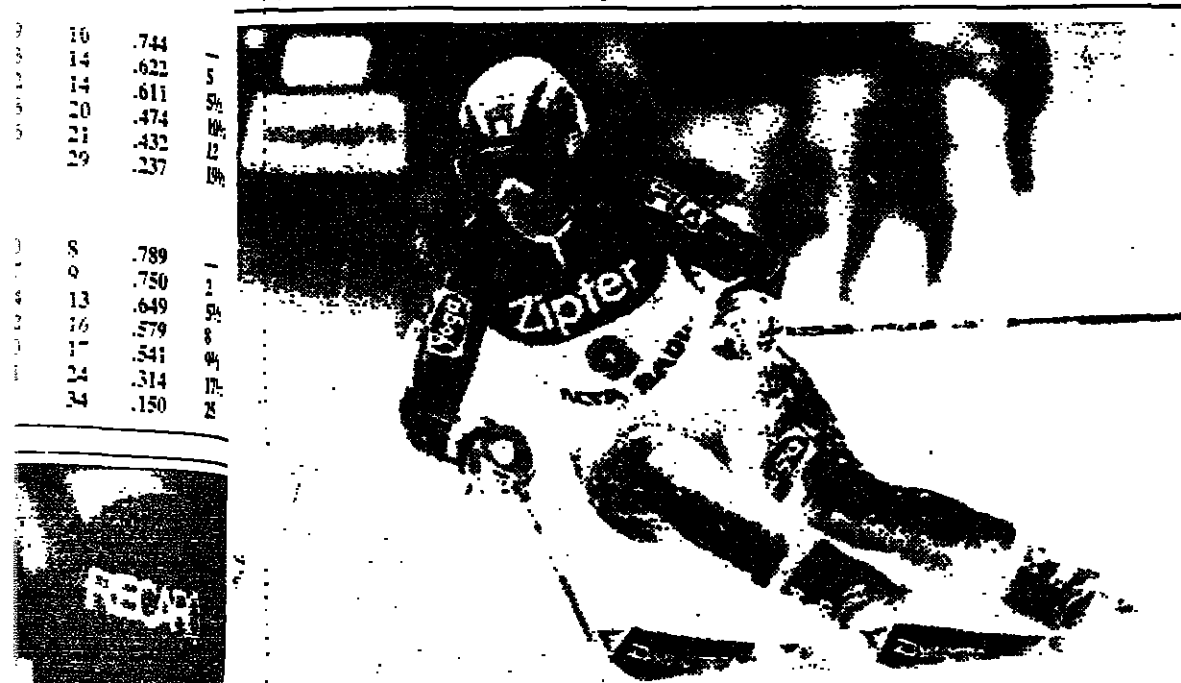
Diminished skills aren't an issue. Rice this season made 112 receptions, the best total of his 10-year career, for 1,499 yards and 13 touchdowns. He broke Jim Brown's NFL record for career touchdowns and was named a Pro Bowl starter for the ninth consecutive time.

In the National Football Conference championship victory over Dallas, Rice made the game's biggest play — a 28-yard touchdown catch with eight seconds left in the first half.

Against the Chargers in December, he caught 12 passes for 144 yards.

"Jerry Rice is at the top of his game right now," San Diego safety Stanley Richard said. "He can pretty much do what he wants to do. He can play another five or 10 years, if he wants to."

The Chargers arrived in Florida Monday as 19-point underdogs, the biggest spread in football history.



Italy's Sabina Panzanini

## World Alpine Ski Championships

### Coaches and athletes struggling to prepare for alternatives

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy (AP) — With only a week to go to the World Alpine Ski Championships in Sierra Nevada, coaches and athletes are struggling to prepare for races still uncertain because of warm weather.

It has been an extremely mild season for Sierra Nevada, Europe's most southern winter resort, with rain rather than snow falling over the weekend. Temperatures haven't even been cold enough to make the needed artificial snow.

"As it looks right now, the only thing I'm concerned about is the safety — there is not much snow and outside the course there are only rocks to slide into," said Canada's Kate Pace, the defending world downhill champion.

Organisers have postponed making a decision on whether to hold the races several times already putting the teams, many of which planned to leave as early as Monday, into a holding pattern.

The International Ski Federation (FIS) said it would announce its final verdict on Jan. 26, only three days before the opening ceremonies are to be held.

The U.S. team's head coach Herwig Demtschauer headed to Sierra Nevada Saturday to see for himself.

Coaches are also worried about what to do with their athletes when they arrive in Spain and have no prepared tracks to train on.

Some athletes, such as two-time Olympic champion Deborah Compagnoni of Italy, may be forced to return home to practice on snow-covered slopes in between the different events that are spread out over a two week period.

"Either I decide it is possible to train, or if I see no chance I'll keep them in Europe until the 27th," said Demtschauer.

For the American women waiting out the decision means passing up a three day break at the beach on Spain's sunny coast.

Germany's Katja Seizinger who leads the World Cup overall standings said she would only think about the

championships on Thursday, when FIS makes a decision.

However, she isn't afraid to set her sights on the medals: "I hope to win at the world championships even though the runs there are very easy. I like more technical courses," she said.

The Americans are some of the race favourites considering their stellar results so far this season. Hilary Lindh and Picabo Street have both won three out of a total of five world cup downhill races.

After winning her second career World Cup downhill in Cortina, Street said, "I hope we have them (the World Championships), that's all I can say."

Lindh won the World Cup downhill in Sierra Nevada last year and Street predicts strong results for her team.

"She is really confident," said Street of Lindh.

The Canadians have already rearranged their travel plans, delaying their departure and opting to stay in Cortina until a final decision is made.

"The important thing is to stay flexible and relaxed," said Demtschauer who also counts on having the World Championships held as planned.

Organisers have touched on several alternatives should conditions in Spain not be suitable by the Jan. 26 deadline: The championships could be delayed until later in the year.

Italy's Sabina Panzanini

Italy's Sabina Panzanini is a professional skier. She is shown in a black and white photograph, wearing a racing suit and helmet, in a dynamic pose as if she is skiing down a slope.

## Australian Open

### Sampras downs Courier to keep title hopes alive

### Chang, Martinez, Pierce progress into semifinals

MELBOURNE (Agencies) — World No. 1 Pete Sampras extended his extraordinary defence of his Australian Open title with an emotional moonlit victory over twice champion Jim Courier at Flinders Park Tuesday.

Sampras staged a brilliant comeback from two sets down for the second time in successive matches to clinch a 6-7 6-7 6-3 6-4 6-3 victory over his fellow American in the tournament's most dramatic match for some years.

The top-seeded Sampras, whose coach Tim Gullikson flew five days in a Melbourne hospital, spent much of the final set fighting back tears as the strain of the past week suddenly caught up with him.

Television microphones apparently picked up a spectator shouting "do it for your coach" at the start of the fifth set, while Sampras also received treatment for a foot injury during a contest which lasted one minute short of four hours.

It was past one o'clock in the morning before Sampras was able to nail down his 10th victory in 14 matches against Courier and secure himself a semifinal against another American, Michael Chang.

Chang beat an ailing Andre Medvedev in the tough sets Tuesday at the Australian Open, clinching the third Grand Slam semifinal appearance of his career.

The 22-year-old American downed Medvedev 7-6 (9-7), 7-5, 6-3 after the Ukrainian was hampered by an injury to his left wrist he suffered during the first set.

Medvedev, seeded 13th, lunged for the ball in the eighth point of the first-set tiebreaker and fell heavily. He was treated several times and the potency of his threat faded as the match progressed.

The right-hander appeared to have trouble with his ball toss after the fall and said the wrist felt numb when he hit double-handed backhands.

"It was painful, but I could play, more or less," said Medvedev. "It took a little while to adjust to the pain, but it wasn't the reason that I lost."

Chang has dropped only one set in his first five matches at the open, where he had not previously made it past the third round.

"It was an awkward match — a very up-and-down match," Chang said. "In the first two sets a couple of points here and there could have turned it around."

The win took Chang two hours and 23 minutes. Both men played mainly from the baseline but Medvedev made considerably more errors — 31 to his rival's 48.

"It was a confidence booster — it was a good match for me to have to battle," Chang said. "I feel like I'm in pretty good shape, physically and mentally."

Medvedev had his chances to win. He had a set point in the first set and served for the second — but didn't take the opportunities.

Chang, who was treated during the match for what appeared to be a groin strain, wavered briefly in the third set.

Medvedev came back from 0-5 to 3-5 before dropping his own serve and the match.

Chang's victory ensured at least one American will reach the men's singles finals. The No. 5 seed will now face Sampras.

Chang won the 1989 French Open and last made the semis of a slam at the 1992 U.S. Open.

Chang said his injury was "nothing too serious" — but declined to elaborate.

"We'll leave it at that," he said. "Jim and Pete read the papers."

Mary Pierce earlier overwhelmed Natasha Zvereva in just 62 minutes — advancing to her second Grand Slam semifinal.

Pierce will face No. 2 seed Conchita Martinez of Spain in the semifinals.

Wimbledon champion Martinez moved into her first Australian Open semifinal with a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 win in one hour-41 minutes over 18-year-old American Lindsay Davenport, the No. 6 seed.

Davenport made 50 unforced errors to just 26 from Martinez.

Pierce, the No. seed from France, hit the ball deep and hard, moving a frustrated Zvereva around the court to win 6-1, 6-4.

Pierce, 20, raced through the first set in just 20 minutes, dropping only the fifth game, and then pulled away from 4-4 in the second set after Zvereva briefly rallied from 2-4.

"In the first set I was pretty happy," Pierce said. "I was very aggressive but I got a bit impatient in the second, made a few mistakes and got upset with myself."

Pierce was successful with 84 per cent of her first serves, hit 25 winners to just 11 from No. 8 Zvereva, and won the point 10 of the 12 times she approached the net.

"She was extremely confident, blasting balls everywhere," Zvereva said. "Everything went in. There was a feeling coming across the net from her. She's pumped up."

Pierce was given a time violation warning on match point as she prepared to serve, but she clinched the point and the match with a backhand down the line before running to the net with her fist clenched in triumph.

"It didn't bother me at all," Pierce said. "It was just a warning."

Martinez said she was enjoying the experience of playing outdoors after struggling in indoor tournaments during the second half of 1994.

"I'm feeling very confident and playing tennis at the moment," she said. "It's great to be in the semis here for the first time."

Davenport said her error-count and her inability to counter Martinez's serve ruined her chances of winning.

"I don't know what it is about her serve, but I'm going to find out," she said. "It's a nightmare for me."

The tournament, sponsored by Ford, offers prize money of \$6.2 million and continues through Sunday.

**Australian Open notebook**

★ Stefan Edberg could struggle to add another Grand Slam title to the six he has already, according to the man who sent him packing from the Australian Open tennis championships.

"He's probably a notch lower than he was in 1990 when he won the U.S. Open and was number one in the world," said American Aaron Krickstein, who beat Edberg in the fourth round.

"It's going to be tougher for him (to win a Grand Slam). He's not getting any younger, just like myself, so there's not too many left. He hasn't done too well over the last five or six grand slam events."

"But he's always capable of raising his game. He was a point or two away from beating me. But again, I don't know if he can beat an Agassi, Sampras or Courier. Those guys are pretty tough."

"I still think he's a top 10 player, but whether he's a top five or top three guy I don't know."

"Twenty-nine isn't over the hill, by any means, but I think it's going to be more difficult for him the more he plays. He doesn't have many years left, I don't think."

★ Todd's tip: Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov is displaying the type of form needed to win his first Grand Slam title at the Australian Open — so says American Todd Martin.

The eight-seeded Martin was on the end of a fourth-round 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 rout by Kafelnikov and walked away impressed.

"I don't see why he shouldn't be able to win a tournament like this one," said Martin. "I think he's a threat to everybody."

But Kafelnikov, 20, the tenth seed, faces a big task in his next match, facing U.S. Open winner Andre Agassi in his quarterfinal.

★ Dances a jig: Natasha Zvereva didn't have a lot to celebrate during her 6-1, 6-4 loss to Mary Pierce in the Australian Open quarterfinals on Tuesday. So when she hit her first backhand winner in the match during the second set, she did a celebratory dance that she claims to

have perfected on the disco floor. "I got so excited," said Zvereva. "That's the way I am. Sometimes I get this huge rush of adrenalin in my blood and I get totally whacked."

★ Junior charge: Players from 27 countries are taking part in the boys and girls junior singles competitions at the Australian Open.

Australia leads the way in the entries with a total of 55 competitors, made up of 29 girls and 26 boys.

The United States has eight in all, split evenly between the two competitions. Japan has seven players, while Germany, Hungary and New Zealand have six representatives.

★ Lefties struggle: No-lefthander has won the men's championship or even reached the final at the Australian Open since the tournament was switched to Flinders Park in 1988.

The last lefthander to win was Argentina's Guillermo Vilas, who won in 1978-79 when the Open was being staged at Kooyong.

★ Talking no chances: Australia's Davis Cup team is trying to simulate Durban-like conditions as the team prepares to play South Africa from Feb. 2-5. Davis Cup coach Tony Roche and captain John Newcombe have imported from South Africa a number of "heavy" balls that will be used on the hard courts of Westridge Park.



Natasha Zvereva of Belarus wears sunglasses during her match at the Australian Open (AFP photo)

Newcombe, captain of Australia's Davis Cup team, says he instructed his charges last year to be more understanding of the public's perception of the sport. And he's seen the increased crowds at this year's tournament, almost fanatical support by some young teens for Australia's top-ranked player, Patrick Rafter, and the emergence of a number of new players making their marks early this year.

★ TV a hit: Tournament organisers said Monday night's fourth-round match between Andre Agassi and Australian star Pat Rafter attracted the biggest prime-time ratings in the history of Australia's Channel Seven tennis coverage.

Tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard said Channel Seven peaked at 39 — 39 per cent of all television sets that were on tuned to the match — in Melbourne, 31 in Adelaide, 27 in Sydney, 26 in Brisbane and 24 in Perth.

Pollard said that about 500 million people throughout Europe, Asia, Africa and North America were tuning in to the tournament, which is broadcast in 11 languages.

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## France vows to reassert EU role in peace process

### Paris, new EU president, will no longer accept 'marginalised role'—ambassador

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The European Union (EU) is no longer content with a secondary role in the Middle East peace process and would strive for direct involvement in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, the French ambassador to Jordan said Tuesday.

Ambassador Bernard Bajolet also condemned Sunday's suicide bombings in Israel that killed at least 19 people and said extremism would not have any impact at least on the EU's commitment to supporting the peace process and extending financial assistance to help develop the Palestinian economy.

Mr. Bajolet was addressing a press conference marking the French assumption of the rotating presidency of the EU with effect from Jan. 1.

During the next six months, France would try to bring about "fundamental changes" in the EU's institutions as well as the bloc's approach to global political issues in a way that would reflect the Union's weight as accounting for 45 per cent of the world's trade, the ambassador said.

While Mr. Bajolet did not spell out the exact means through which the EU sought a high-profile role in the hitherto U.S.-dominated bilateral negotiations between Arabs and Israel, his comments indicated that the Union would employ its economic clout to achieve its objectives.

Mr. Bajolet complained that the EU's role "has been marginalised despite the fact that we pursued the peace process 'with vigour' ever since the international conference launched Arab-Israeli peace talks in Madrid in September 1991.

"We cannot accept it any longer... we no longer agree to be the cashier of the peace process," he said. "All parties of the (Middle East) region are aware of the potentially strong (political) role that the EU could play and all are calling for a stronger EU role in the peace process."

However, the EU approach was not at variance with or contradictory to the American handling of the peace process, he said. "We are not criticising the U.S.," he stressed, "despite our differences in viewpoints and some contradictions, we believe that our approach will be complementary to that of the United States."

The ambassador indicated that the EU was getting impatient with the U.S.-brokered but deadlocked Syrian and Lebanese negotiations with Israel and said the EU stood solidly behind its stand that Israel should withdraw completely from Syria's Golan Heights in return for "full normalisation of relations" between Syria and Israel.

Similarly, the EU also believed that "any peace settlement should not be at the expense of Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and democracy," said the ambassador.

He said France was coordinating with Germany, its predecessor as EU president, and Spain as well as Italy, the two countries which would consecutively take over the EU presidency after France, in its efforts to revamp the Union.

The European Union fully supports the autonomy accord signed between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the

(Continued on page 7)



ARRESTS: Israeli soldiers arrest a Palestinian youth while a borderguard (left) interrogates another one at a Bethlehem roadblock Tuesday. The Israeli army spread a security blanket over Israel and the Palestinians sealing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to prevent Palestinians from entering Israel and Jerusalem (see page one) (AFP photo)

## Cabinet presents policy statement to House today

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker will today seek a vote of confidence from the Lower House of Parliament on the basis of a policy statement that is expected to stress the advantages of the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel and reiterate the cabinet's commitment to political, social, administrative and economic reform.

Indications are that the government will emerge from the confidence session, expected to begin Saturday, with a strong parliamentary mandate though it will be subjected to tough criticism from opposition deputies.

Observers say the government will secure 54 to 56 votes of confidence in the 80-member house since it has the support of most members of four parliamentary blocs as well as the majority of independent lawmakers.

Withholding confidence will be the 17-member Islamic Action Front, the only bloc excluded from the government, and leftist deputies Bassam Haddadin (Zaqra), Khalil Haddadin (Amman), Mustafa Shneikat (Balqa), Toujan Faisal (Amman) as well as Deputy Talal Obeidat (Irbid).

The IAF members will vote against the government because one of the Cabinet's major tasks is the implementation of the peace treaty, which they oppose on ideological grounds, according to IAF officials. The Islamists will also oppose the government because it "ignored" them in the consultations over the formation of the cabinet earlier this month.

Bassam Haddadin said the leftist lawmakers oppose the government because it is a "uni-colour" cabinet which will not be able to carry out the tasks outlined for it in His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to Sharif Zeid.

Along with Mr. Obeidat, the leftist lawmakers will cast a no-confidence vote in the government also because they believe the peace treaty falls short of achieving the Kingdom's rights recognised by international laws and U.N. resolutions.

Joining the opposition deputies in criticising the government will be lawmakers who are unhappy with their exclusion from the ministerial team.

Ahmad Qudah (Ajloun) highlighted this unhappiness among such deputies in a recent speech when he subjected the government to the harshest criticism yet for not having Ajloun (50 kilometres north of Amman) represented in the cabinet.

Parliamentary sources said Dr. Qudah could be joined by two to three deputies in withholding confidence from the government in an expression of discontent about keeping them or their constituencies out of the cabinet.

Observers expect the confidence session to last from two to three days, saying that the majority of deputies will make speeches in support of or against the government.

House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Sour was quoted by the Al Rai daily on Tuesday as urging parliamentary blocs to each deliver a coordinated speech on behalf of its members. He also urged lawmakers to be brief in their speeches so as to save time

for the House and the government alike.

But lawmakers are not expected to heed the call. Opposition members will use the opportunity to air their views about the peace treaty and alleged encroachment on their freedom of expression. Through their parliamentary platform, those lawmakers are expected to subject the government to harsh criticism in an effort to have their message reach the public.

But supporters of the government will not allow the opposition to have a field day. Therefore, they too will deliver speeches to counter the opposition's allegations and defend the government's position, especially on the peace treaty whose advantages they will try to spell out.

Moreover, deputies have developed a tradition of making speeches on important occasions such as confidence votes and the discussions of the draft budgets. Few expect lawmakers to break away from this tradition, especially because it receives substantial television coverage which many deputies often utilise for electioneering purposes and stating the concerns of their constituencies.

The government, through the prime minister, will respond to the deputies' comments before the vote of confidence is cast and the cabinet of Sharif Zeid is expected to emerge with the second largest vote of confidence among the five governments that took office since the parliamentary elections of 1989 — the largest being that of the 1989 government of Mudar Badran who then secured the confidence of the then-23 strong Muslim Brotherhood bloc.

## Senate refers draft law to council

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate), on Tuesday decided to send the 1994 public administration draft law to the Higher Council for Interpretation of the Constitution to verify whether some of its articles which drew controversy between the Senate and the Lower House were constitutional or not.

The Senate had returned the draft law to the Lower House which in turn insisted on its earlier decision to amend parts of it.

The source of controversy in the law is derived from a clause that gives the Council of Ministers the right to empower the prime minister or some of its members the powers of the full cabinet.

The Senate's Law Committee raised four questions about the issue:

— Is it constitutional to issue a legislation giving the cabinet the right to give any of its administrative powers to the prime minister or some of its members?

— Is it constitutional to issue a legislation giving the prime minister the right to give any of his administrative powers to his deputy or any other minister?

— If the authorisation in the above question is allowed, should it take place by a law or a regulation based on the provisions of the Constitution?

— Do the provisions of the Constitution allow the issuance of a law or a regulation giving the deputy prime minister the powers of the prime minister in his absence abroad?

While the Lower House approves giving these powers to the prime minister and deputy prime minister, the Senate rejects it.

Thus the Senate's Law Committee recommended that the draft be referred to the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution after 25 out of 33 senators attending the meeting approved the motion.

Opposition to the motion was spearheaded by senators Mudar Badran, Thouqan Al Hindawi and Maan Abu Nuwar, who said the aim of the empowerment was to reduce burdens shouldered by the cabinet and the prime minister.

The Senate, which was meeting under the chairmanship of its Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Khaled Karaki, approved two draft laws on military and civil service pension as they were referred to it by the Lower House.

In order to become laws, the two drafts should be endorsed by His Majesty King Hussein.

## Canadian regiment closed after racist incidents

OTTAWA (AFP) — Defence Minister David Collette said Monday he was ordering the disbandment of the elite Canadian Airborne Regiment, following video tapes showing its members to be racist. Mr. Collette made the announcement following the publication of video tapes taken from Airborne troops making racist remarks in Somalia, where they served as U.N. peacekeepers.

The tapes also showed a bawling incident in which recruits were forced to eat human faeces, vomit and urinate. Members of the Airborne — once considered the elite of the Canadian military — were being making references to Somalia as "niggers and niggers."

The Airborne, a regiment comprised of elite fighters from other Canadian regiments, has been a key part of virtually every Canadian U.N. peacekeeping mission. It was due to take over the next Canadian rotation of peacekeepers in Bosnia in April.

**Report: medics can keep Deng alive for 3 to 4 months**

HONG KONG (AP) — Doctors assigned to treat Deng Xiaoping around the clock believe they can keep the Chinese senior leader alive for "at least three to four months," a Hong Kong daily said Tuesday. The Beijing-based team of more than 20 specialists in Chinese and Western medicine was earlier this month renamed as "emergency rescue group."

The English-language South China Morning Post quoted sources in Beijing as saying. Despite Chinese government assurances that Mr. Deng is generally healthy for a man of 90, speculation about his condition intensified last week after Hong Kong newspapers reported that he recently fell seriously ill. The reports came after Mr. Deng's daughter, Deng Rong, was quoted as saying that her father, who led China through more than a decade of huge social and economic change, can no longer stand and that his health is deteriorating by the day.

**Fergie back under Prince Andrew's roof**

LONDON (R) — Prince Andrew's ex-wife, Sarah, has moved back temporarily into his house with their two young daughters. Britain's Sun newspaper reported. But the tabloid said the royal couple would have separate bedrooms and there was "no chance" of a reconciliation. Fergie, as she is popularly known from her maiden name, Ferguson, was staying with Andrew while decorators prepared her new eight-bedroom home, the Sun said. She and Andrew separated in May, 1992.

**Prince Charles's valet laid out**

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles's personal valet resigned in disgrace after being accused of telling a mass-circulation newspaper secrets of the royal heir's love life. Ken Stronach, at the centre of the latest "serve and tell" scandal to hit Britain's beleaguered royal family, quit after admitting "gross misconduct," the prince's lawyers said. Mr. Stronach, who was reported to have received a six-figure sum for his revelations, confessed to taking sneak photographs of the prince's bedroom but denied leaking racy details of the prince's love life to the mass-circulation News of the World last week.

**Former Philippine leader sets price in family feud**

MANILA (R) — Former Philippine President Corason Aquino will reconcile with his daughter Kris only if the young woman drops the man who got her pregnant, a family source said Tuesday. The family source, who asked not to be identified, was commenting on Ms. Kris's tearful appearance Monday night on national television when she apologised for causing a family scandal.

**Moghribi to succeed Abourezk at ADC**

AMMAN (J.T.) — After 15 years as chairman of the Jordanian Arab Anti-Communist Committee (JACC), former Senator Fays Abourezk has stepped down due to heavy scheduling demands in his South Jordan law practice. Mr. Abourezk will remain closely involved at ADC's annual convention.

**King congratulates president of India**

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday sent a cable to Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people at the government of India's Republic Day. King Hussein wished Mr. Sharma good health and happiness and the people of Jordan further progress and prosperity.

**Jordan opposition wants coordination with Syria**

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Jordanian groups opposed to the Oct. 26 peace treaty with Israel called for increased coordination with Damascus to foil schemes aimed at weakening the Arabs. Syria's state-run agency SANA reported. Twelve delegates from seven leftist and nationalist parties arrived here Tuesday on the first day of a Jordanian opposition delegation to be announced publicly here. The delegation was headed by Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Badran and ruling Baath Party Deputy Secretary General Abdullah Ahmad. He expressed "support for the policy followed by Syria" and called for increasing coordination with the Baath to "coordinate efforts to foil schemes aimed at weakening the Arabs." SANA said. The delegation was led by the National Progressive Front, the Baath-loyal coalition ruling Syria.

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## Kobe declared disaster area; tax cuts offered

KOBE (Agencies) — A week after Kobe was devastated by an earthquake, the cabinet declared the once-vibrant city a disaster zone Tuesday, effectively shouldering huge rebuilding costs.

Opposition lawmakers assailed the government of Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama for its slow response to the quake, which killed more than 5,000 people.

"What were you thinking of?" opposition delegate Akira Kuroyanagi screamed at the prime minister in an emotional parliament session. He demanded Mr. Murayama apologise to the nation "for the suffering of the people."

One week after the quake, the death toll stood at 5,063 with 68 still missing. Another 26,500 people were injured and at least 50,000 buildings damaged or destroyed in the Jan. 17 earthquake, which had a magnitude of 7.2.

Mr. Murayama avoided any apology but said the government will spare no effort to improve disaster preparedness. The Finance Ministry unveiled a series of tax breaks for quake victims based on their income and property losses.

Those whose property losses still exceed their annual income after discounting insurance payments will have to pay no income tax for 1994, the ministry said Tuesday.

The Health Ministry relaxed restrictions on foreign doctors who have volunteered their services. The ministry said foreign doctors will be allowed to treat quake victims even though they lack Japanese medical licenses.

After earmarking a hundred billion yen (\$4 billion) from a contingency fund last week, the government formally declared the region a disaster area on Tuesday, opening the way for special low-interest reconstruction loans.

Meanwhile, the stress of tackling the aftermath of the disaster — now being called the Great Hanshin earthquake — began to show, with the suspected death by suicide of a official struggling to restore the city's water supplies.

Police said Takashi Nakaniishi, 37, a water supply control officer, was found dead Monday morning outside his office in central Kobe, apparently after leaping from the fourth floor of the building.

"We don't know yet if it was a suicide or accident. But it is true that we have been under growing stress and tension," said city waterworks bureau spokesman Koji Nagase. "We have called on the staff to keep their calm."

As clean-up operations ended their first week, traffic returned to repaired roads in this international port city. The traffic into the city centre, nestled beneath the Rokko mountains, reverberated as buses resumed services on 50 of the city's 77 routes to make up for railroads, dodging streets with cracked surfaces and heaps of debris and those threatened by tilted buildings.

Rescue teams, beefed up by British and French specialists and U.S. doctors, failed to find any survivors by nightfall Tuesday. The death toll stood at 5,063 and 68 still listed as missing.

The National Police Agency added that 26,284 people had been injured and 56,243 houses and buildings destroyed in the quake.

Running water had been restored to more than 40 per cent of Kobe's 650,000 households after strenuous repair work and almost all the houses which survived the quake have electricity.

But patience was running out among some 230,000 people still sheltered at Kobe schools and public halls amid a flu epidemic fanned by strong cold winds.

United Nations officials said the number of Chechen refugees who have fled east to Dagestan is now estimated at 42,000 — far higher than the earlier estimate of 30,000.

"Current estimates suggest there are as many as 10,000 vulnerable people trapped in the city, mostly women and children, of which 5,000 are in a precarious situation," the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said in a statement.

"It is these people that IOM is trying to assist first, as many have made known their desire to be evacuated," it added.

Twenty-two people (13 women and nine children) were brought out of Grozny in a mini-bus at the weekend and taken to neighbouring Ingushetia, already home to some 100,000 desperate Chechens, IOM said.

The first evacuees had been in hiding for three weeks in sub-zero temperatures, the Geneva-based group said. They included a woman wounded by shrapnel and her 18-year-old daughter, dazed and in shock, who were taken to hospital.

IOM, which arranges the movement of refugees and migrants, said it planned to evacuate Grozny civilians on a regular basis, "moving as many as 75 to 200 persons daily provided the present security situation prevails."

## Half of Israelis want to halt peace talks

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Fifty per cent of Israelis want the government to suspend peace negotiations with the Palestinians following Sunday's bombing which left 19 people dead, according to a poll published Tuesday. The survey in the Maariv newspaper found 37 per cent in favour of continuing the talks, in line with the policy of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Thirteen per cent voiced no opinion. The poll was taken Monday among 516 Jewish Israelis and has an error margin of 4.5 per cent. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin pledged Monday to forge ahead with the peace process to achieve "a complete separation between Israelis and Palestinians."

## Tantawi throws doubt on Arab-Israeli peace

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's mufti, one of the country's highest religious authorities, voiced doubt Tuesday over the prospects of Arab-Israeli peace amid a row with Israel over nuclear weapons. "I do not see reconciliation with someone who wants to harm us," said Sheikh Mohammad Sayyed Tantawi in an interview with the Islamic opposition newspaper Al Shaab. "Reconciliation is only made with a party which does not do us wrong," the government-appointed mufti replied to a question about the prospects of Middle East peace. Egypt says it will not sign a renewal of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) due in April unless Israel also joins up. Cairo reacted angrily to an Israeli foreign ministry report, leaked to the press, which urged retaliatory measures against Egypt for its "negative" attitude to the Jewish state. "The Israeli threats to punish Egypt are not fit for anything but the rubbish bin," as Foreign Minister Amr Musa has said," Sheikh Tantawi told Al Shaab. "For our part we must prepare to punish those who want to attack us," he added.

## Bomb hoax at El Al office in Prague

PRAGUE (AFP) — Police on Tuesday evacuated the Prague offices of Israel's El Al airlines following a bomb hoax. CTX agency said. Police cleared the Wenceslas Square area after an anonymous telephone caller warned of a bomb and a passerby alerted them to a suspicious ticking sound coming from a car parked in the square in front of the El Al offices. Bomb experts at the scene said a faulty car alarm was the source of the scare. The El Al office has received several fake bomb threats in the past month, the news agency said.

## Lebanon refused visas to Arab politicians

BEIRUT (R) — Five members of parliament (MPs) have asked the Lebanese government why it did not grant visas to several Arab nationalist and Islamic politicians to attend a meeting in Beirut this month, a parliamentary source said Tuesday. Issam Naaman, one of the MPs, told Reuters police referred the visa applications for the Jan. 10-12 meeting to Interior Minister Michel Al Murr, who did not respond. He said the five MPs, who include former Interior Minister Beshara Marjeh who was replaced by Mr. Murr last year, had written to the government asking for an explanation. Among politicians who did not receive visas were former Algerian Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Al Mehni, Jordanian MP and ex-Minister Ismael Al Farhan, Rashid Al Ghannouchi, London-based head of the Tunisian Renaissance movement, and exiled Moroccan opposition leader Mohammed Al Basri, Mr. Naaman said. They wanted to attend a meeting of the follow-up committee of the Arab Nationalist-Islamic conference in Beirut.

## Turkey recovers smuggled antique

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has recovered from a New York art gallery an antique marble head smuggled abroad in 1993, state radio said on Tuesday. The priceless piece dating from 50 B.C. was stolen from Aphrodisias, an ancient Roman city and one of the most important schools of architecture of its time, now in Turkey's western province of Aydin. The head appeared on display at New York's Turkish-owned Fortune Fine Arts Museum last September, the Hurriyet daily said. It was returned to Turkish Culture Minister Tuncel Sanas on Monday by U.S. officials in New York, the radio said.

## Kuwait happy Republicans dominate Senate

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Saud Al Sabah said in remarks published on Tuesday he expected Republican dominance of the U.S. Senate to improve Washington's commitment to the emirate's security. "The changes that have affected the U.S. Congress and the Republicans' control over it, I imagine, is in our interest," Al Watan newspaper quoted Sheikh Saud as saying in an interview. "The arrival of the Republicans (as the Senate majority) will entrench the position of the United States in defending Kuwait and standing by it. This is a clear message for all," said Sheikh Saud, who spent a decade as ambassador to Washington.